EAST BAY EXPRESS

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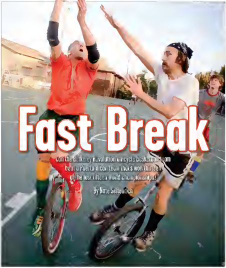

Fast Break

Can the Berkeley Revolution unicycle basketball team beat a Puerto Rican team that's won thirteen of the last fifteen world championships?

By Nate Seltenrich

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NEW TAX ANGERS SMALL OAKLAND RETAILERS

City fee on used book and clothing stores and antique shops sparks a backlash Plus, AC Transit admits that some Van Hool buses have been accident prone

Small Oakland retailers, already suffering because of the recession and the proliferation of Internet shopping, are angry about the City of Oakland's decision to begin collecting a hefty new business tax. The fees could amount to more than $600 per business and apply to sellers of used goods — such as used book, clothing, record, and toy stores, and antique shops. The city has sent letters to dozens of such retailers across Oakland demanding that they pay the tax and force their employees to be fingerprinted, or face additional penalties. *Story inside*

MUSIC 43

WHY? GO?

Yoni Wolf of WHY? abandons the East Bay, leaving the chilly *Eskimo Snow*.

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Tech Talk

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Google Apps Goes for Businesses

by Mielle Sullivan Janus Networks

One of the bigger stories in the computer tech world for the last several weeks has been Google's promotion of Google Apps as a business solution. Google Apps (Gmail, Google Docs etc.) have been available to the public, both for free and as a premium level service, since 2007. But this is the first time Google has actively advertised its Apps for business. While most of the press has viewed the campaign as an assault on Microsoft's home base, Google sees their Apps as something of a complimentary collaboration tool and not necessarily a direct competitor to Microsoft Office.

For the uninitiated, Google Apps are web-based, cloud-computing programs that are accessible through any browser. A group can collaborate on a document, a spreadsheet, a power point presentation etc. all through a link. This cuts down on version multiplicity problem that often occur during collaboration. Also, by hosting everything in the cloud and making them as easily accessible as any web page, Google Apps provides a certain permanence, eliminates compatibility headaches and the need for endless software updates.

When I spoke to Andrew Kovacs, Manager of Communications for Google Apps, he saw the Google Apps products as part of a larger trend toward greater worker collaboration facilitated by the web. "A few years ago the emphasis was on individual productivity" said Kovacs. "One person would sit at their cubicle and would something, which they would then send to their boss or team. Now we are seeing much more of a focus on group productivity and collaboration and it is because programs like Google Apps make it easier to collaborate." When I asked what he thought about Microsoft's competitive product, Office Live, which is currently in Beta, he said "When a software giant like Microsoft offers a cloud-based solution, we see that as validation to what we have been saying, that the future of computing is in the cloud. We think it is good. We think it will only bring more people online."

So, what are the downsides to Google Apps? Even though, for many businesses, there are cost and labor time benefits to having all their documents and email in the Google cloud, there is some loss of control. Not having your server in-house, but instead controlled by Google means not having direct control or access. For some, that requires a leap of faith. Also the kind of granular email message recovery that IT professionals are used to having on their own servers, comes at an additional cost from Google. Message Discovery, as the product is called, is $25/user/yr for one year of retention, or $45/user/yr for up to 10 years of retention. Meaning if you want to store one year's worth of mail for 8 years, it's $45. Google believes that for many businesses there is still a significant savings compared to in-house server maintenance costs.

Google also admits, that for some work, Google Apps is not competitive with Microsoft Office programs. Word allows for more formatting than Google Docs. Excel offers more functionality than a Google Docs spreadsheet for complex math and number crunching. Google sees its Apps as an easy to use program that will satisfy the basic office document needs of most businesses, but admits more elaborate projects are better served by Microsoft. "We see Microsoft Office as being similar to Photoshop. It's a great product that has a lot of functionality. Either offices have at least one copy of Photoshop, and we think all offices will always have at least one copy of Microsoft Office."

You can contact the author at press@janusnetworks.com

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On the Cover *The Berkeley Revolution unicycle basketball team. Photo by Chris Duffey.*

EAST BAY EXPRESS

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Business
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Business Manager Matthew Ayotte
Systems Managers Janus Networks
Bay Local Community Organizer Hal Brody

Advertising
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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
Monica's Victims
THE HARDEST-WORKING BAND IN ROCK CITY

LETTERS

[illegible]

Dig Deeper

You have spent a lot of ink writing about Monica Ung and my response is "Why all of the clamor?" What she is doing and has done is no surprise. Chinatown and its population has always received special favors. They advertise in Chinese language-only newspapers, they hire illegal immigrants which means that they do not pay taxes or Social Security, they have hidden assets that are never reported for tax purposes, they pay with cash in order to not leave a paper trail, most have ties to China in an effort to gain as much control of American real estate as possible. The union is all upset because they feel that they are not getting their fair share of all of the construction work being given to NBC. Anytime they are at the forefront of a fight you can believe that it is not about the workers but about the survival of a weakened union. Take a hard look around Chinatown and dig deeper than Monica Ung and you will find many more just like her. If you want to do an exposé take it to the limit and expose Chinatown for what it is, a money laundering, illegal immigrant breeding ground of corruption and tax evasion. Where are they getting seed money for all of this construction? Where do their workers come from? Much time is spent looking at Hispanic illegal immigrants while Chinese and Southeast Asian illegal immigrants are here in large numbers as well. As long as that is the case the Moron Ungs of the world will continue to extort hard work for little pay from them. But I do not feel for workers like Ricky Lau because those same construction sites never advertised or allowed men and women of other races to work on those multimillion-dollar projects, which were being built with taxpayers' money. How many unemployed construction workers would have loved to have had an opportunity to make $25 an hour during these hard times? Ricky Lau didn't make $60 an hour but would that same Ricky Lau have asked why there were no black or Hispanic people on the site? I think not. This community protects and looks after its own at the expense of others as they bypass tax laws, labor laws, anti-discrimination laws, and other laws. Where was the union years and years ago to fight this type of corruption?

Lorene Flintroy, Berkeley

[illegible]

That's Real Color!

Thanks for writing the review of the Swarm show. For the record, none of the water in the bags is dyed! It is unaltered Oakland Estuary water and the findings are plastics that have washed up at the estuary.

I am pasting in my project description. It can also be read right outside the project room.

"Being overly curious and having my studio in Jack London Square has led me to the waterway and compelled me to experiment with what is there: the tides, the salty water, and the tremendous washing up of plastic. Who is throwing this plastic in the water? Is it simply floating in from the bay? How can we prevent it from getting into the waterways? It breaks into tiny particles that resemble sea plankton. How toxic are these synthetic crumbs?

Unlike glass which also litters the shoreway, it does not turn into sand. Plastic turns into plastic. Its haunting presence reveals a colorful disturbance. This project is an assemblage of water and plastic found at the Oakland Estuary since June 2009. I have collected these items once or twice a week during varying tides, at edge of the water as well as on the shore banks. The process is endless."

Ronnie Charriere, artist

[illegible] the War Against Pot?" News [illegible]

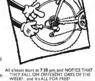
Behind the Ball

Californians will rightly greet the environmental bureaucrats' Prop. 65 warnings about marijuana and cancer with the same concerned yawn they give to the myriad other Prop. 65 warnings that litter our gas stations, dry cleaners, factories, TV studios, etc. It should be a source of embarrassment to the Prop. 65 panel that their warnings about marijuana have been contradicted by a brand new study finding that moderate marijuana smoking is associated with a 62 percent reduced risk of head and neck cancer. The latter is just one of several new studies indicating anti-carcinogenic properties of the cannabinoids in marijuana. It should come as no surprise that our public health bureaucrats are once again behind the ball.

Dale Gieringer, Oakland

Correction

In our September 2 story "Paper View" about a juried art show at the Berkeley Art Center, we noted that the Oakland Museum of California is closed. We also should have noted that the museum will reopen next May following a planned renovation. ●



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Weds, Nov 4th
6: GEARS! How it goes...
Tues, Nov 10th
7: BIKES FOR TRANSPORTATION: All about ridin' in town
Tues, Nov 17th
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SEVEN DAYS

A YEAR TO FORGET

State lawmakers end the legislative session without addressing some of California's worst problems. Plus, two Spanish judges are now investigating a UC Berkeley professor.

By Robert Gammon

This year may go down as one of the most pathetic in the history of the state Legislature. Not only did Sacramento lawmakers spend nearly all of 2009 groping for solutions to the state's intractable budget problems, but the Legislature failed to enact any significant reforms that would help solve California's other major issues. As for Democrats, the only semblance of progress they made was passing a watered-down version of a prison reform bill that was weaker than the one proposed by the state's Republican governor.

Indeed, it was the height of cravenness for Democrats in the state Assembly to stake out a position to the right of Arnold Schwarzenegger because they were so afraid of being called "soft on crime." But that's exactly what they did when they approved a bill that would lessen California's inmate population by 17,000 instead of the 27,000 that the governor sought. Democrats apparently found that Schwarzenegger's plan to release some elderly and sick inmates and to downgrade some nonviolent felonies to misdemeanors was far too liberal.

Democrats also are probably hoping that the federal judiciary will bail them out. A three-judge panel has ordered the state to cut the inmate population by more than 40,000 in the next two years to relieve severe prison overcrowding. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the judges say overcrowding is the root cause of inadequate health care in the state's prison system, and it's so bad it constitutes "cruel and unusual" punishment. Schwarzenegger has appealed the judges' decision and had hoped that a tough new prison reform bill would have rendered it moot. But the Democrats were too scared of the political consequences to make that happen.

Lawmakers also finished the legislative session on Saturday without addressing the failing Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta or reaching a compromise with the governor over renewable energy standards. There is talk about a special legislative session to find a solution to the delta's problems, but as for climate change, Schwarzenegger may act on his own this week. According to the Associated Press, the governor plans to veto bills approved by the Legislature and then issue executive orders, requiring that one-third of the state's energy come from renewables by 2020. The governor opposed the Democrat-sponsored plan because it would have limited the amount of wind, solar, and geothermal power that comes from out of state.

As for state Republicans, they were their typical obstructionist selves throughout the year, opposing nearly everything they could. And then they ended the session in scandal when one of their rising stars, Assemblyman Mike Duvall, a "family values" politician from Orange County, quickly resigned after a tape surfaced of him bragging about having extramarital affairs and raunchy sex with two women. Questions immediately arose as to whether Duvall was trading sex for votes because one of the women was reportedly an energy lobbyist and he sat on an influential Assembly energy committee.

As for issues affecting the Bay Area, the legislature also tabled a watered-down version of BART's police oversight plan. BART developed the plan in the months following the fatal shooting of Oscar Grant, then agency officials secretly gutted it in order to overcome objections from a state police officers' group and gain quick approval in Sacramento. But the behind-the-scenes maneuver failed when Legislative leaders refused to fast track the proposal. The plan is expected to undergo full hearings in 2010.

Have You Ever Been to Spain?

Two Spanish judges are now investigating Bush administration lawyers, including UC Berkeley law school professor John Yoo, for their roles in authorizing torture. But US Attorney General Eric Holder could stymie those investigations if he refuses to answer legal inquiries made by the judges, according to legal writer and journalist Scott Horton, writing for the Huffington Post. The judges, one of whom is Baltasar Garzon, best known for indicting Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, have given Holder until the end of October to answer questions about the roles played by Bush-era lawyers in the torture of Spanish citizens at the US prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The judges also are anxious to review an internal US Justice Department report on whether Yoo and his colleagues violated American legal standards when they authorized traditionally unlawful interrogation techniques such as waterboarding. The report has been five years in the making, but Holder has refused to release it. He also has refused to open his own criminal investigation into Yoo and his colleagues, and is concentrating on CIA agents and contractors who tortured prisoners beyond what Yoo authorized. According to Horton, Holder's decision to limit his investigation prompted the Spanish judges to go ahead with theirs.

Three-Dot Roundup

UC President Mark Yudof wants to raise student fees by more than 30 percent in the next year to balance a huge budget deficit, according to the *Chronicle*. The increase would mean that annual student fees have nearly tripled in the past decade and would pass $10,000 for the first time in 2010. ... The opening of the new eastern span of the Bay Bridge could be delayed beyond 2013 because of welding problems in China and issues relating to the signature single-tower design, according to Caltrans officials. ... Alameda County District Attorney Tom Orloff has decided to retire, and is recommending that his chief deputy Nancy O'Malley take his place. She would be the county's first woman DA. ... And evidence surfaced that Fox News host Glenn Beck wasn't the only one to target Obama adviser Van Jones. A representative from a conservative group that has close ties to big oil companies and whose primary goal is to block climate-change legislation took credit for Jones' resignation in a posting last week on Fox News' web site. ●

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ECO WATCH

SHODDY SCIENCE

A national panel criticizes the USDA's scientific research on the light brown apple moth but affirms its power to start another round of aerial spraying.

By Robert Gammon

As expected, a panel from the National Academy of Sciences said on Monday that the government has the legal authority to embark on a massive new eradication effort against the light brown apple moth, thereby opening the door for another round of aerial pesticide spraying. But the panel also criticized the United States Department of Agriculture for engaging in shoddy science to substantiate its war on the moth.

The 21-page report came in response to petitions submitted by opponents of the government's extermination plans. They had asked the USDA to reclassify the light brown apple moth from being a major pest to one that could be easily controlled by farmers. Such a move would have prohibited aerial spraying or other major eradication efforts that the government is now planning. Opponents believe the USDA and state officials have severely overstated the threats posed by the moth and have noted that it has lived for more than one hundred years in Australia, New Zealand, and Hawaii without causing serious, sustained damage to crops or native plants and trees. The USDA, nonetheless, believes the moth will destroy large swaths of cropland throughout California and much of the southern United States. The agency also considers it a serious threat to native redwood and pine forests.

UC Berkeley professor Nicholas Mills, who served on the light brown apple moth panel, said its hands were tied.

But the panel from the National Research Council, which is part of the National Academy of Sciences, agreed with the petitioners that the USDA had not sufficiently justified its scientific basis for labeling the moth as a major pest. The panel concluded that the USDA "did not conduct a thorough and balanced" scientific analysis. But at the same time, the panel noted that current federal law gives the USDA wide latitude with its decision making, and as a result the agency was free to categorize the light brown apple moth as a major pest — whether it really is or not.

In an interview, Nicholas Mills, a UC Berkeley professor who has done extensive research on the light brown apple moth and served on the panel, said the panel's hands were tied by the federal Plant Protection Act, which allows the USDA to classify insects as "quarantine-significant actionable" pests if they are invasive species that have caused crop damage elsewhere. Scientists believe the light brown apple moth, which was discovered in Berkeley three years ago, is originally from Australia or Tasmania, and though it has harmed some crops, it is not considered a major pest in any place that it has flourished. "It's very subjective," Mills said of how federal law allows the USDA to make decisions based on qualitative rather than quantitative evidence.

Still, opponents of the government's eradication plans were heartened that the academy panel had found fault with the USDA's scientific research. "It's pretty damning," said Ray Upton, a Santa Cruz-based co-author of one of the petitions that sought to reclassify the pest. Upton is with the grassroots group Citizens for Health and is a medical writer and editor. His 100-plus page petition was endorsed by several respected entomologists and was co-written by Daniel Harder, a botanist and curator of the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum.

The government has the authority to embark on a massive new eradication effort against the light brown apple moth, opening the door for another round of aerial pesticide spraying

The academy panel's criticisms of the USDA included the agency's likely overestimation of how widespread the moth could become in the United States. The panel pointed to research that Mills himself was involved in that indicated that the moth cannot flourish in climates that are too hot or too cold. The panel also noted that it's unclear exactly how long the moth has lived in California and thus whether it truly represents a serious threat. In addition, the panel found that the USDA likely overstated the economic impacts posed by the moth and its danger to native forests. And, finally, the panel said the USDA should conduct a comprehensive review of why it believes its eradication plans will work. Opponents say they won't because the moth is already entrenched in California.

The panel urged the USDA to develop a more robust and clearly defined approach to classifying insects. Mills told Eco Watch that, as it stands, there is a danger that the agency may overestimate the threats of other invasive species as well, thereby prompting other extermination efforts. But it's unclear whether the USDA has the power to come up with stricter guidelines for classifying insects, or whether it would need new legislation from Congress.

In a statement, Cindy Smith, administrator of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the agency had "revised its draft response" to the reclassification petition "to incorporate" the academy panel's findings. But Smith also said that she was "pleased" that the panel concluded that USDA was within its rights to classify the moth as a major pest.

Originally, Upton and other petitioners were upset that the USDA had not allowed the academy panel to review whether the moth should be reclassified but only whether the USDA's denial of reclassification was scientifically justified. In the end, however, that concern appears to have been unfounded, because the academy panel concluded that the USDA's scientific research, as shoddy as it was, didn't really matter because of the broadly written federal law.

Upton said he and his fellow petitioners nonetheless planned to consult with lawyers to determine whether they had any legal recourse. But if the academy panel is correct, then the opponents of the government's eradication efforts may need to seek a political solution rather than a scientific or legal one. At this point, it could require a new federal law from the Congress or a lobbying effort to convince President Obama or Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack that his agency shouldn't embark on a war against an invasive species without first conducting a rigorous scientific review.

Richmond Council Opposes the Dam

The Richmond City Council passed a resolution last week, officially opposing the East Bay Municipal Utility District's plans to build a huge new dam on the Mokelumne River. Although the dam proposal has received widespread opposition from cities and other public agencies in the Sierra Foothills, this was the first time that an East Bay city had come out against it. The new dam would nearly the double the size of an existing reservoir and would ruin a scenic section of the river that is popular for swimming, fishing, and kayaking.

The council voted 4-0-2 for the resolution with the council's progressive majority of Mayor Gayle McLaughlin and councilmembers Tom Butt, Jim Rogers and Jeff Ritterman standing firmly against the dam. "It seemed like a good idea for us to put a hurdle in their way," Ritterman told Eco Watch.

Although the council's vote is not binding on East Bay MUD, it may turn out to be more than just symbolic. It could put pressure on district board members Lesa McIntosh and Katy Foulkes to vote against the dam, too, when it comes up for a vote in October as part of the agency's proposed infrastructure needs over the next ten to fifteen years. Both McIntosh and Foulkes represent parts of Richmond, and it will be hard for them to justify supporting the dam when their city's elected councilmembers have come out against it. ■

Mayor Gayle McLaughlin and councilmembers Tom Butt, Jeff Ritterman and Jim Rogers voted to oppose the dam.

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FULL DISCLOSURE

NEW TAX ANGERS SMALL OAKLAND RETAILERS

City fee on used book and clothing stores and antique shops sparks a backlash. Plus, AC Transit admits that some Van Hool buses have been accident prone.

By Robert Gammon

Robert Gammon

Pendragon's Amy Thomas says she won't pay the fee.

Small Oakland retailers, already suffering because of the recession and the proliferation of Internet shopping, are angry about the City of Oakland's decision to begin collecting a hefty new business tax. The fees could amount to more than $600 per business and apply to sellers of used goods — such as used book, clothing, record, and toy stores and antique shops. The city has sent letters to dozens of such retailers across Oakland demanding that they pay the tax and force their employees to be fingerprinted, or face additional penalties.

But the city's demand is sparking a revolt — not unlike the backlash over the council's decision this summer to raise parking meter rates and extend hours to 8 p.m. One retailer said she does not intend to pay the tax. "I don't think this should apply to our business," said **Amy Thomas**, owner of Pendragon Books, a bookstore on College Avenue in Rockridge that sells new and used books. Thomas, who also owns Pegasus Books in Berkeley, said that the City of Berkeley has never attempted to implement such a tax. Nor has the City of Alameda.

Traditionally, the tax has applied only to pawnbrokers. It's based on the state's Secondhand Dealers' law, a 50-year-old statute written to help law enforcement track stolen goods. Historically, cities, which collect the tax and can keep most of its proceeds, have exempted businesses not usually associated with the stolen goods trade — such as used bookstores and antique stores. Pawnshops, by contrast, have had to pay the tax.

But in the past few years, several cities have begun imposing the tax on other businesses, too, said **Carl Brakensiek** of the California Alliance of Retail Merchants and Collectors, a statewide trade group that has followed the issue. As the economic downturn has bludgeoned city budgets, local officials have desperately searched for ways to raise revenues. "Some municipalities are doing this while others have chosen not to," Brakensiek said of the tax.

In Oakland, however, sudden implementation of the tax does not appear related to a search for new revenues. Instead, employees apparently took it upon themselves to launch the program. **Nancy Marcus**, whose title is "administrative assistant I for special events permits," said that two new employees had discovered that Oakland could legally require many retailers to apply for license like pawnbrokers, and then began collecting the fees.

So in an August 13 letter that Marcus said she sent to 48 Oakland retailers, she told business owners they had to pay $310 for an application fee, $295 for a state license fee, and $57 to $67 to fingerprint each employee. Businesses must pay annual fees in succeeding years. Marcus gave business owners a deadline of September 30 to comply. Under state law, once a business acquires a secondhand dealers' license, they must keep meticulous, detailed notes of every item they buy and sell, including the private personal information of the persons involved in each transaction. Failure to comply with the law is considered a misdemeanor that carries a fine of up to $1,500 or two months in county jail.

The law makes sense for pawnbrokers, but applying it to used bookstores or antique shops is another story. Oakland's implementation of the law also appears to have been arbitrary, and not the result of an exhaustive effort to determine exactly who the law should apply to. After all, in addition to pawnbrokers, there have to be more than 48 businesses that buy and sell used goods in Oakland. In fact, under a liberal reading of the law, there is no reason it shouldn't also apply to garage sales.

The license tax also gives another advantage to online giants such as Amazon.com and eBay, which won't have to pay the fees, fingerprint people, or maintain cumbersome records, even though they also transact used goods and already have an edge because they don't charge sales tax. "If I have to do it," Thomas said, "I think everybody should have to do it."

Ironically, a 2006 bill authored by **Leland Yee**, a state legislator from San Francisco, would have specifically exempted used bookstores and antique shops (but not used clothing or toy stores) from the law. The bill was specifically aimed at coin dealers and was pushed by pawnbrokers who wanted coin dealers and other merchants to help pay for a multimillion-dollar statewide electronic database to track stolen goods — which, to this day, does not exist. But retailer associations and Internet sites helped defeat the bill because they said it would hurt business. They also knew at the time that most cities, including Oakland, weren't collecting the tax from anyone other than pawnbrokers.

Van Hools Have Been Accident Prone

Top AC Transit officials admitted publicly last week that scores of their Belgian-made Van Hool buses have been accident prone and costly to maintain. The public acknowledgment was significant because top agency officials have staunchly defended AC Transit's exclusive contract with the firm and argued that the Belgian buses are superior to American-made ones, despite the fact that the agency's own records

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show the Van Hools are dangerous for the elderly and for people with mobility problems.

The surprising admission, which was also made by agency General Manager **Rick Fernandez**, one of the biggest backers of the Van Hools, came during an AC Transit Board of Directors subcommittee meeting. Board member **Greg Harper** had asked agency staff to compile a report on bus maintenance costs. The report revealed that some Van Hool models have been accident prone while others particularly the 60-foot accordion-style buses are costlier to maintain than the other buses in AC Transit's fleet even though they are much newer and thus should be cheaper to keep running. Agency records show that Van Hools are more expensive to buy than some American-made buses.

The revelations prompted Harper to question his support for the Belgian buses over the years. "I have sat up here and defended the Van Hools thinking that we had a better model bus," he said. "Maybe I made a mistake."

At first Fernandez attributed the higher repair costs to Van Hools being assigned to busier bus lines that have more stops and carry more passengers, which puts more wear-and-tear on the vehicles. But after questioning by Harper on why some of the Van Hools, specifically the forty-foot model have more accidents, break down more often and have higher parts costs than some older American-made buses, AC Transit staffers including Fernandez, also blamed the unusual design of the bus. "The lion's share of it is the tail swing," said the author of the report AC Transit Director of Maintenance **Bob Bithell,** referring to the forty foot Van Hool model. "Those buses smack a lot of things when they move in and out of bus stops."

As this newspaper has previously reported, AC Transit bus drivers have long complained about the long back end of the forty-foot Van Hools one of the workhorses of the agency's fleet (see "The Buses from Hell," 1/23/08). The bus's peculiar design includes a short wheel base which makes it harder to maneuver and creates a bouncy ride. In fact some bus drivers refuse to pull completely into smaller bus stops because the long tail end of the bus swings dramatically back and forth and hits things. Those drivers stop the bus in the street blocking traffic and forcing riders to step off the curb and walk out on the street to get on board. In fact, a bus driver was fired a few years ago in part for getting in a fight with an agency executive over the issue (see "Agency Fires Driver Over New Buses," 4/2/08).

The design problem prompted AC Transit officials to require Van Hool to modify their new forty-foot buses so that they have a traditional wheelbases, like American buses. Fernandez noted that the new models don't have the same accident problems. However, there are still more than 100 of the old forty footers in the fleet and it's too costly to retrofit them. Fernandez said that bus drivers have learned how to drive the forty-footers better and now have fewer accidents. But neither Bithell nor the report could substantiate that assertion because the report looked at bus accidents and costs over four-year period from 2005 to 2009, and did not break them out by year. As a result Harper asked Bithell to come back with more detailed information on bus accidents and maintenance costs including labor costs, along with data for how long each bus type stays in the shop when they break down or get in accidents. ●

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Dacus calls the Bay Area "perhaps the most hostile place in the nation for people of faith." Rin Kelly

CONSERVATIVE LEGAL FIRM TARGETS BAY AREA

By opening a brand office in Oakland, the Pacific Justice Institute signals its intention to become more active locally

By Rin Kelly

As the video begins, Brad Dacus stands in profile. "There was another time in history ... when the bell tolled," he declares. "The question was whether or not they were going to hear it. The time was during Nazi Germany — with Adolf Hitler." A solitary "Whoo!" rises as Dacus sweeps an arm across the crowd. "You see, he brought crowds of clergy together to assure them that he was going to look after the church. And one of the members, bold and courageous — Reverend Niemoller — made his way to the front and boldly said, 'Hitler, we are not concerned about the church. Jesus Christ will take care of the church. We are concerned about the soul of Germany. ...'

"Hitler said, 'The soul of Germany you can leave that to me.' And they did — and because they did, bombs did not only fall upon the nation of Germany, but also upon the church and their testimony to this very day. Let us not make that mistake, folks. Let us hear the bell! Vote on Proposition 8!"

Dacus, founder and president of the conservative Christian legal firm Pacific Justice Institute, was speaking last October to a "Yes on 8" rally on his home turf of Sacramento, where his institute has been headquartered since its 1997 creation. Now the nonprofit has opened a new satellite office on 9th Street in Oakland's Chinatown. From there, this self-proclaimed defender of "parental rights and religious freedom" will have easier access to the California Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and potential clients throughout the region that Dacus has called "perhaps the most hostile place in the nation for people of faith."

The Oakland office represents an expansion of the institute's efforts to fight what Dacus calls "intolerance" in the region. "The increase in requests for assistance that continue to come into our office is such that a Bay Area office we found was very warranted and needed," he said in an interview. This could mean increased headaches for school districts — a favorite target in Dacus's war for "parents' rights" — and more lawsuits like the ongoing case in which the institute's client, Faith Fellowship Church, alleges that the city of San Leandro is breaking the law by not rezoning to accommodate church expansion plans.

Religious convictions have compelled Dacus to take on such cases as a fight to allow Bakersfield students to opt out of a homosexual teacher's class; a tussle with a Utah public school that he claims was peddling a book "promoting witchcraft" via the Scholastic Book Club catalog; and — while employed by the conservative Rutherford Institute — the defense of the family of a teenage Nebraska boy who, with his parents' help, had his girlfriend arrested for seeking an abortion. For the courts to find in favor of the girl, Dacus told Time in 1994, would have had "a chilling effect" on free speech.

The Pacific Justice Institute has been a presence in the East Bay for years despite not previously having a regional office. Calling on its network of local pro bono lawyers — Dacus claims to have more than 500 such "affiliate attorneys" in California and more than 1,000 nationally — the organization unsuccessfully took on Berkeley in 2000 over the city's insistence that the Sea Scouts, which prohibit gay and atheist members, pay rent to use municipal berths. In 2002, the institute took up multiple causes in Hayward, including the case of four teachers at Tennyson High School who refused to attend an in-service training on student LGBT concerns. In March 2009, the US Supreme Court refused to hear the institute's years-long suit against UC Berkeley, which the organization alleged was violating the First Amendment by hosting a federally funded web site featuring one page out of 840 that linked to information touting the compatibility of evolution and religion.

Last month, the institute and the Castro Valley school district settled a dispute over Castro Valley High's March 2009 "Days of Diversity," a two-day program featuring topics as diverse as Vietnam veterans, children in foster care, and life as a cowboy. For the third consecutive year, the program also included an appearance by the lesbian senior minister of Hayward's Eden United Church of Christ. The institute's lawsuit grew out of a request for records relating to that presentation, which was kicked off by an anonymous mass e-mail that claimed the pastor's presentation gave "step-by-step instructions on how to become gay and transsexual." That same e-mail also complained that tolerance education overlooks the fact that "we are all mistreated everyday. The punk rocker with his iPod in his ear that gave me my coffee at Starbucks this morning mistreated me."

Although ultimately Pacific Justice Institute chief counsel Kevin Snider said he was satisfied that the district had provided all requested documents, the case ended up costing the Castro Valley schools $4,807 in lawsuit-related costs. Snider, who is heading the institute's new Oakland office and calls the Bay Area a "very strategic place," said of Castro Valley: "Now that that's been settled, parents are meeting with the school officials, and hopefully they're going to start on the right foot and have some dialogue." Meanwhile, assistant superintendent Mike Bush denied that any of the 31 plaintiffs in the case were even parents of students at the high school.

Such issues are of special interest to the institute and Dacus, who with his wife Suzanne is the author of a book informing public-school teachers, students, and parents of "strategies to peacefully and legally evangelize your school." Titled *Reclaim Your School*, the book calls separation of church and state "the big lie" and covers everything from pastor visitations to special school-hours Bible study through which, Dacus writes, "a large number of students ... make commitments to receive Christ by the end of the year." Another passage states: "because public school employees are cautious not to display their faith inappropriately or in a manner that might violate the law, it may take a few visits or conversations before you can determine the religious or non-religious views of the staff at your public school."

Dacus is a man with strong religious convictions. "I'm a Christian," he said in an interview. "My wife was in full-time youth ministry for ten years working with high-school kids. That book goes right along with my personal convictions and desire not just for religious freedom but ideally for people, for kids, to be able to come to Christ. So it's evangelical. It's a book with a definite evangelical perspective. I don't have to apologize for that because we have a society where we have religious freedom."

For his institute that freedom includes urging parents to opt out of LGBT tolerance curricula like the one adopted by the Alameda school board in May. A 45-minute-per-grade anti-bullying program that begins in kindergarten with students talking about what makes them feel welcome and unwelcome and ends in fifth grade with a discussion of the harm that stereotyping LGBT people might cause, the curriculum, "Lesson 9," is the basis for an ongoing series of lawsuits filed by the institute on behalf of parents. An effort to recall the three school board members who voted for the curriculum also is in the works, and, should supporters gather enough signatures by December, will require a special election in 2010. One of the leaders of the recall campaign, Kevin Wood, said the institute has advised his group pro bono. Snider occasionally attends their meetings, and Wood says his group is also "an avenue to reach the parents" so that more opt-out lawsuits may be filed.

Wood's group, S.E.R.V.E. (Seeking Equity and Respect for all Viewpoints in Education) Alameda, has suggested that its complaint is not with the LGBT anti-bullying lessons, but rather with the absence of lessons that explicitly address other groups protected by anti-discrimination laws. However, the institute opposes the inclusion of LGBT as one of those protected categories, arguing that gay, bisexual, and transgendered people can change. "While it is true that they are entitled to all the protection of due process and anti-harassment and other protection afforded to other individuals under the law," said Dacus. "That also can be problematic because there are thousands of ex-gays and lesbians in the United States that are members of Exodus International. They have spoken at assemblies and have been very outspoken."

The institute has stated opposition to legislation and educational policies that would, according to various press releases, expand federal employment laws to prohibit discrimination "based on sexual orientation, including homosexuality and bisexuality," "force pe[illegible] to people, even if it violates their conscience," "require all student clubs, including Bible clubs, to extend membership to students regardless of their sexual orientation or religion."

The Oakland office represents an expansion of the institute's efforts to fight what Dacus calls "intolerance" in the region

According to Tony Park, a University of Iowa sociology professor who has studied right-wing legal nonprofits, the institute is not one of the better-known groups. Its annual budget has grown from $211,645 in 1998 to $1.5 million in 2007, the last year for which data is available. Since last year Dacus has begun two new nonprofit groups, a legislative-advocacy organization and an additional legal nonprofit.

One group that has recently taken notice of the institute is the Anti-Defamation League, which released a statement last year condemning the Third Reich analogy he used in his Proposition 8 speech. "We are outraged and deeply offended that a spokesman for the Pacific Justice Institute has chosen to invoke images of Hitler and Nazi Germany as part of that organization's campaign on behalf of Proposition 8," read the press release.

Asked about his comments, Dacus told the *Express*: "Obviously I wasn't trying to infer that anyone in the San Francisco Bay Area was akin to the Third Reich or in favor of any cause of the Nazis. That would be a ludicrous understanding of the point that was being made." Instead, he argued, the speech was an exhortation that today's church not be "silent on an issue they had a strong theological and moral conviction about." But he added: "If the purpose of that organization is to stand up to anti-Semitism they should be glad that I was once again reminding people of the importance of people to stand up to tyranny." ●

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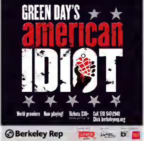

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CLOUDS AT THE BALLOT BOX

Oakland-based initiative leads what are now four separate statewide cannabis-legalization efforts

By David Downs

Oaksterdam University founder Richard Lee is emerging as the primary agent of change amid a crowded field of four statewide cannabis-reform efforts. But the seasoned entrepreneur's hope to end prohibition with licensing, regulation and taxation is being challenged by activists who were once on the same team as him.

Back in June, Lee and other reformers were working with San Francisco attorney Omar Figueroa and Sonoma public defender Joe Rogoway on a legalization bill to take directly to the voters in the 2010 election. But the group split into pragmatists and idealists over the details of the initiative. While Lee and his group finished the "Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010," which limits personal possession of cannabis to an ounce, Figueroa filed "The Tax, Regulate, and Control Cannabis Act of 2010" in Sacramento with no limits on possession. Now the two wildly different efforts will have fewer than 150 days to gather 430,000 valid signatures, thereby qualifying them for the 2010 ballot.

Meanwhile, a third marijuana reform initiative just emerged from Long Beach. And when combined with the legalization effort introduced by freshman Democratic Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, the potential for confusion becomes evident.

Lee said he was surprised that his former allies chose such a similar name for their initiative. Nonetheless, he intends to quickly finish signature-gathering, while Figueroa and Rogoway must still muster resources. "Frankly, I give Joe credit for urging me to start this and do the first poll and look into doing it," he said. "We haven't talked much lately. It's been a little disappointing."

Lee said his group will pay the professional signature gathering firm Masterton and Wright around $1 million to quickly secure more than 650,000 signatures — 50 percent more than the legally required number. He hopes volunteers will contribute a small fraction to the total. He's not counting on the grassroots, but he hopes they will contribute 10 to 20 percent of the signatures he wants. "We're going to get ours done pretty quickly so there won't be much confusion," Lee said. He expects to need another $10 to $20 million in a ground and air campaign next year to capture the 56 percent of California voters who told the Field Poll this summer that they favor legalization.

Figueroa and Rogoway did not return phone calls, but their group, the California Cannabis Initiative, is appealing online for lawyers, signature-gathering coordinators, and petition circulators. The web site states they have only a handful of the dozens who will be needed.

By contrast, the third runner-up, the Common Sense Act of 2010, was filed by one retired veteran in Long Beach with a spare $200 to pay the filing fee. He now needs signatures as well.

The only true peer of Lee's effort may be Ammiano's AB 390, a bill that will be heard in two committees this fall. Ammiano said the bill should be viable in the Democrat-controlled state legislature. "Consider that California passed single-payer health care through the legislature and it's just sitting on the governor's table."

Among the initiatives, Ammiano said Lee's is the one to watch. "I like Richard Lee," he said. "I think he's a really smart guy. We'll see how this all shakes down over the upcoming deadlines and who in a sense is the last man standing. Richard has the funding to carry this over." Still, Ammiano and others believe voter confusion could be a problem. He said he was chagrined when he heard of all the competing initiatives. Message control is essential to any successful campaign, he believes. "I think it's something we have to work on," he says. "This community is not monolithic."

But Lee maintains that all the reform attempts help reinforce the cause. In the 20th Century, seventy-three initiative measures related to prohibition, drugs, and alcohol circulated. Only twenty qualified for the ballot box and just five were approved.

> Ammiano was chagrined when he heard of all the competing initiatives. Message control is essential to any successful campaign, he believes.

James Wheaton, the Oakland lawyer who authored Lee's initiative, says it all comes down to money. "The real question is, do they have $1 million to get this thing on the ballot?"

Although Lee may indeed have the resources, many in the reform movement would have preferred a 2012 initiative to capture younger presidential election voters, noted Stephen Gutwillig, state policy director for the Drug Policy Alliance. Those voters will stay on the sidelines until next year when a final ballot determination is made.

Political analyst and Oakland resident Larry Tramutola said he has high hopes for the Lee initiative. "Lee is savvy and methodical, but it's already confusing and that is a risk."

San Francisco medical cannabis dispensary operator Kevin Reed fears the worst and wants reformers to move slower and more methodically. "This is a huge social experiment, and when they overreach, it threatens to alienate a bunch of voters," Reed said. "Failure could blow up in the face of the medical marijuana community."

The opinion was echoed by James Anthony, lawyer for large Oakland dispensary Harborside Health Center. Anthony blasted Lee online this week, noting that notorious criminal Philip Garrido was a pot smoker and child rapist. A massive, Republican fundamentalist backlash will use the case and others to stomp legal pot at the polls, he fears.

The deadline for signature gathering for the first of the three initiatives begins shortly, and the topic will be hotly debated at the Sept. 27 annual NORML conference in San Francisco. ●

Team captain Lance Thornton goes in for a layup during a recent practice. Chris Duffey

Fast Break

Can the Berkeley Revolution unicycle basketball team beat a Puerto Rican team that's won thirteen of the last fifteen world championships?

By Nate Seltenrich

To learn to ride a unicycle without falling, get two friends to stand on either side of you, and wrap your arms around their shoulders. Sit up straight, look forward, and rest all your weight on the seat. Pedal a half-turn and stop, then a full turn, and then two turns. Once you feel you are in control, switch to holding onto your friends' wrists, then one friend's wrist, and then a wall. Finally, and God willing, you're ready for the open road — or perhaps the basketball court.

Learning to unicycle is 90 percent perspiration, 8 percent body control, and 2 percent brains, says John "the UniCyclone" Foss, who helped pioneer the sport of mountain unicycling, or MUni, in the early 1980s. "It's a fun sport that teaches you you can do the impossible," he said. "People who like to do hard stuff are very interested in unicycling." Among the myriad challenges available to contemporary unicyclists — hockey, track and field, artistic freestyle, road racing, mountain unicycling, and "street" style included — the strangest must be unicycle basketball. The sport is an unexpected, unnatural collision of concepts that can be difficult to visualize without actually witnessing it, but it works. It can be as beautiful as a choreographed ballet one moment and as frenzied as a youth soccer game the next, but it's always interesting.

Unicycle basketball has been contested on an international scale since at least the late 1980s and its origins extend decades further. Today it's a slowly but steadily growing sport that figures as a central event at Unicon, the biennial unicycle world championships and convention.

At this December's Unicon XV in Wellington, New Zealand, one of the favorites — or at least a promising dark horse — will arrive from our own backyard. The Berkeley Revolution, a relatively nascent team with almost no experience against other formal squads (the closest one is in Phoenix), has nonetheless maintained a steady practice schedule since 2003. It now places itself among the top active teams in the world.

"If you play every week, you're gonna get good," agreed Foss, who is familiar with the Berkeley team but has no affiliation with it. The Revolution's weekly practices at Strawberry Creek Park bear this out. But how good are they? And can they give the Puerto Ricans, unicycle basketball titans who have won thirteen of the last fifteen world championships, a run for their money?

The Berkeley team's roots lie, of all places, in the colder climes of Michigan. Marcus Hertlein was living in Ann Arbor in the mid-1990s when, encouraged by friends from a juggling club, he began to dabble in unicycling. He could ride only five or six feet without falling when Sem Abrahams, whose Semcycle brand is today a leading name in unicycle performance and sales, convinced him to try unicycle basketball.

Hertlein found that playing basketball on his unicycle led to drastic improvements in his riding, as the mind tends to focus on the game while pedaling becomes passive and second-nature. "It was incredibly fun," said Hertlein. "Every time I went, I improved incredibly, much more than I had previously." He was hooked.

About four years later, a job at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab brought Hertlein to the East Bay. It didn't take long for him to seek out like-minded folks, and he found them at the Berkeley Juggling Club. There he met Tom Holub, who picked up unicycling in 2000 for practical reasons — he worked at UC Berkeley and needed a way to get around campus. Walking was too slow, bikes too complicated, and scooters good only for downhill. It was three months before he could realistically use a uni and a year before he deemed himself proficient. By then he, too, was hooked.

Holub, a lifetime basketball fan, took quickly to Hertlein's idea of starting up a unicycle basketball squad in Berkeley. But few others shared his enthusiasm, and the pair had a hard time finding more than one or two other riders to show up for Tuesday night practices. "In the early days it was pretty informal and very small," said Holub. "There were times were I said, 'Oh, this just isn't worth it.'" But two years later, in 2005, the sport began to gain momentum in Berkeley. Soon Hertlein, Holub, and a growing number of unicyclists were playing regular three-on-three and four-on-four games.

Over time, the players' skill levels improved immensely. Yet continuity was hard to come by. They didn't consider themselves a team so much as an assemblage of unicyclists who practiced when they could. Attendance varied sharply as players graduated from Cal or left the area for other reasons and newcomers drifted in and out. Finally, in 2007, the team concept coalesced when a few regular players began to plan a date with Unicon XV two and a half years down the line. Today, with the New Zealand championships right around the corner, the team's foresight appears to have paid off. "In terms of the individual skills that we have," Holub said, "I don't think that there's a team out there outside of the Puerto Ricans who can top us."

Fog is rolling in thick over Strawberry Creek Park in West Berkeley. Darkness is falling, and the gathering bay breeze shows no signs of backing down. The park is empty save for a few stray dog walkers — and, at the south end, a sweaty band of six men and one woman playing full-court unicycle basketball on an outdoor court under timed lights. The sight is nothing if not surreal.

But the more you watch, the more it comes into focus. These guys can play. Jim Sowers, the oldest person on the court at 47, parks his unicycle at the top of the key and, before his defender can adjust, deftly sinks a three-pointer. Five minutes later he does it again. He's also a highly physical player under the hoop, and has made it his mission to acclimate his teammates to the aggressive play of the Puerto Ricans. They've been known to grab opponents' jerseys or attempt to knock them from their cycles — which refs tend to let slide — and Sowers worries this will throw the Revolution off its game.

A lifelong fan of the sport who grew up "in a basketball town in a basketball state," Sowers has become the team's unofficial coach and helped to teach plays, drills, and fundamentals to his teammates. Along with Adam Politzer and captain Lance Thornton, Sowers led the charge to derive a bona fide team of five to seven from the pool of fifteen to twenty players who attend the weekly practice sessions. Together the three of them came up with the Revolution's team name, concept, and logo.

Thornton, the perfect captain, plays a John Stockton-like role on the court. He distributes the ball evenly and unselfishly from outside the key, attracts defenders then dishes to open teammates, and drives to the hoop for easy layups when a lane opens. He got his first unicycle as a gift from his parents at age eighteen. At the time he lived in rural Mississippi, hardly a haven for quirky behavior, and didn't start riding in earnest until he moved to Berkeley in 2000 and hooked up with the juggling club.

Politzer is more of a Horace Grant, a utility man with a quiet temperament. He's versatile, well-rounded, reliable — the sort of guy you want on your team. He's not afraid of contact, and his unicycling

Continued on page 14

Anatomy of a crash: Jim Sowers, Tom Holub and Adam Politzer collide under the hoop.

Chris Duffey

Fast Break

Continued from page 13

skills allow him to reverse under the basket for a better angle on a rebound, drop to the baseline and back-door a defender for a shot at the hoop, and apply enough defensive pressure to force a turnover. He picked up unicycling and unicycle basketball at the same time two and a half years ago and quickly became a core member of the Berkeley team.

The scrimmages, typically played by ones to seven or eleven, look and feel much like a traditional basketball game — except that movements are accompanied by whirring wheels and pedals. There are inbounds plays, quick passes, weaves, picks, screens, give-and-goes, drives, high-speed fast breaks, zone and man-on-man defense, steals, blocks. Players must call their own fouls. The Berkeley team's shooting percentage from the field is impressive — sometimes as high as 50 percent — mainly because their shot selection is smart.

A well-executed play can be a gorgeous thing to witness. Consider the one that ended one of tonight's games: Rolling across the top of the key, Sowers made a quick pass inside to Thornton, who head-faked past his defender, drove to the hoop, and looped the ball off the glass and through the net. Moments like these make unicycle basketball a more fluid, visually pleasing game than its traditional counterpart.

Even on this dark, cool weekday night in mid-August, a few spectators have stumbled across the game and stayed to gawk, as they often do. "We thought we were going for a walk, but we've been standing here ten minutes, watching," said Evan Pyke of Santa Clara. He and two friends found themselves transfixed twenty feet from the court.

"We are amazed and dumbfounded," said Bronwen Stanford of Berkeley, wide-eyed. "It's very impressive. ... I was kinda confused that they'd be doing those two things at once." After a bit more thought, she added: "Wow, I'd like to do that." Practices are open to the public and unicyclists of all stripes, but any novice player who witnesses a couple minutes of the Revolution's current scrimmages is likely to be scared from trying. This will change, the team promises, once the championships are over.

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Even to the casual observer, play is physically demanding, punctuated by a constant stream of oofs, oohs and ughs. Sometimes it's carnage under the hoop with arms flailing, knees spinning, unicycles clattering and clanging against one another and crashing to the court like metal dominoes. Players who fall off their unis must scurry out of the way as quickly as possible, because if the ball touches them while they're down it's a turnover.

Injuries are frequent from the garden-variety bashing of shins against pedals and the bumps and bruises of multiplayer collisions to less-forgiving incidents like riding into a pole or falling wrong. There are turned ankles, tweaked wrists, banged elbows and knees. Poitner sustained the worst injury by breaking his wrist after a fall two years ago; he was off the court for three months. The uniform of shorts, T-shirts, and tennis shoes is augmented as each player sees fit with shin guards, knee pads, elbow pads, and even the odd helmet.

Two and a half hours of this is more than just sport. It's a serious workout that requires considerable stamina and strength. Regular riders may see a transformation in their legs and core — in Sowers' case, he says, his entire body. Even when they're tired, they keep playing. And after that when 10 p.m. has rolled around and they're exhausted and dripping with sweat, it is tradition for anyone on the team who is available to convene for snacks and refreshment at nearby Lanesplitter Pub. It seems that no amount of pizza or beer can put a dent in the outstanding unicycle basketball of fords.

Continued on page 24

Berkeley Juggling and Unicycle Festival
September 18, 5 p.m.-midnight, September 19, 10 a.m.-midnight, September 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Berkeley High School (2223 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley). Free. BerkeleyJuggling.org/Festival

Berkeley Juggling and Unicycle Festival Circus Arts Variety Show
September 19, 7:30 p.m. Martin Luther King School Theatre (1781 Rose Street, Berkeley). $10. BerkeleyJuggling.org/Festival

California Mountain Unicycle Weekend
September 25 through 27. Lake Tahoe and Downieville. Unicycling.com/MUni/2009

Unofficial coach Jim Sowers looks for an open teammate. Chris Duffey

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Sowers attempts to maneuver his unicycle past a defender

Lisa Dutton

Fast Break

Continued from page 15

Among the many questions often asked of unicycle basketball players — How long has this existed? Does it hurt when you fall? Are you in the circus? — perhaps the most common is also the most pragmatic: What are the rules? The answer may come as a surprise, if only for its simplicity. Unicycle basketball follows standard Olympic basketball guidelines, with a few minor tweaks.

The modifications fill only half a page in the International Unicycling Federation official rulebook. 1) A player off his or her unicycle is considered off-side; 2) the player in-bounding the ball may have only one foot on the ground; 3) a player who receives the ball while progressing can make three idles (an idle is one half-turn forward and one half-turn backward to maintain balance) before dribbling or throwing; 4) contacting the ball with the unicycle is a non-foul violation, and 5) the standard three-second rule is adjusted to four seconds.

These are the rules that will steer the play of the 25 or so teams expected to compete in Unicon XV's round robin knockout style tournament. Puerto Rico (which is sponsored by Walgreen's this year), Switzerland (the only other team to win at Unicon since 1994), Germany, and Berkeley will likely field the top teams, but the football axiom of "any given Sunday" applies to unicycle basketball, too.

At this summer's national championships in Minnesota, captain Thornton had a chance to scout some of the Revolution's competition. Twenty-two teams from cities across the United States competed, including ten that focused on

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CIRCUS ACT OR EXTREME SPORT?

Some unicyclists aren't thrilled by their sport's reputation

On a unicycle basketball court, eccentricity is standard. "I've always loved the weird stuff," said Berkeley Revolution team member Albert Kong. "Traditional sports didn't interest me at all." Feats like riding a motorcycle from San Francisco to Tierra del Fuego (Jim Sowers), learning parkour and archery solely because they're obscure (Kong) or simply juggling with a group once a week on the UC Berkeley campus (Lance Thornton) are par for the course in the unicycling world.

Unicycling's traditional ties with the circus, particularly juggling, further relegate it to the fringes of popular culture. Many of the Berkeley team's members came to unicycling through juggling, and some, like Frank Olivier, who has performed on Broadway and appeared on the Johnny Carson show, make circus-style entertainment a way of life. Ashley Foster, who plays unicycle basketball in Berkeley regularly, learned to ride at Wavy Gravy's Camp Winnarainbow circus camp.

But some contemporary unicyclists aren't thrilled about the connotation of unicycling as a party trick for oddballs. They'd prefer to establish a distinction between circus- and non-circus riding, and to push unicycling from the realm of novelty into the realm of sport. "Unicyclists are trying to get rid of associations with the circus and clowns," said Marcus Hertlein, a founding member of the Berkeley squad. "It kind of makes fun of it and doesn't really show that there's athletic ability necessary for these sports."

Like Hertlein, Berkeley Revolution team member Sowers is more interested in the athletic side of unicycling. Last year he rode a unicycle 10.8 miles to the peak of Mount Diablo for the annual Mount Diablo Challenge. It took him an hour and 45 minutes — third place among the three unicyclists who tried (first place went to Berkeley team cofounder Tom Holub at 1:20), but well ahead of more than eighty bicyclists. "When people see how athletic we are, we get some embarrassed respect," he said.

Sure enough, the barriers between unicycling and serious sport are beginning to break down. In recent years, a number of professional unicyclists have earned sponsorships from companies such as Columbia Sports. Many of them specialize in mountain unicycling, which is perhaps easiest for nonunicyclists to embrace because it mirrors mountain biking.

Mountain unicycling pioneer John Foss says that Unicycle.com became the first outlet to sell unicycles online in 1999 and suddenly everyone with an Internet connection and a mailing address had access to the sport. An explosion of unicycle production and sales ensued, Foss said. The new market for different types of wheels, seats, axles, and other components allowed unicyclists to customize their rides and adapt them to different uses. Prices began to drop, too — today, standard cycles go for under $100, while top-of-the-line rigs run around $500.

At the same time, the growing popularity of online photo and video sharing led to the development of a virtual, international unicycle clinic. An innovator in a particular arena could broadcast the achievement and inspire viewers to follow along — and perhaps respond with their own innovation. Unicyclists who once felt isolated within smaller communities were now linked to a worldwide network. As a result, participation in sports like unicycle basketball has grown steadily over the last decade and the expanding unicycle universe has led juggling and unicycling to diverge into distinct cultures.

While the tension between circus and sport may never be fully resolved, there's ample room for both in our niche-driven culture. "People take it to so many extremes," said Kong. "If you can do it on foot, you can do it on a unicycle." The fun part is wondering what will come next.

Nate Seltenrich

the spot. Of those 22, about fifteen had a low skill level. Puerto Rico didn't field its A-team, but it did send two second-rate teams and two highly skilled players, one of whom could leap off his pedals for a slam dunk. Thornton, the only player from Berkeley to attend, landed on a team from Rochester, New York, that lost 42-10 to the tougher Puerto Rico squad in the semifinals. An experienced team from Minnesota — likely Berkeley's only continental competition — ended up taking first place.

Unicon XV, the first unicycle world championships to be held in the Southern Hemisphere, will feature more than twenty events. These fall into the broader categories of track and field (the most popular), mountain unicycling, road racing, freestyle, hockey, and basketball. In addition to the competition, the eleven-day gathering straddling New Year's Day also features workshops, casual rides, and social activities. Ken Looi, chairman of the convention's organizing committee, expects about 700 competitors in all. "It's an amateur sport, so apart from shiny medals and bragging rights, there is no monetary gain from any of this," he wrote in an e-mail. "People compete because they are passionate about unicycling."

Eight members of the Berkeley squad, plus a 17-year-old MUni champion from Los Gatos who recently committed to practicing with the Revolution, plan on attending Unicon. A couple key players will be missing, and by the time the tournament rolls around the team will likely still be entirely untested. Refined basketball skills are the remaining weak link, and over the next three months the team plans on squeezing twice as much practice time into every week and devoting more time to plays and drills. Toward that end, the team is also hoping to find a volunteer coach, possibly from a local high school or community college, who could guide their progress from the sidelines.

It all adds up to a challenge, complicated by the fact that the trip won't be cheap. Airfare to New Zealand typically runs about $1,600; multiply by nine and you get nearly $15,000 for the team. Add the $600 they'll need for uniforms and it's easy to see why the Revolution is in the market for a sponsorship or two of its own. Still, there's no reason not to go for it. As Sowers constantly reminds his teammates, "This is our only chance to be world champions." ●

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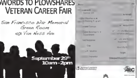

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AN INSIDE JOB

Members of the 9/11 "Truth" movement are typically disparaged as crackpots. In fact, they're actually wonks

By Rachel Swan

At first glance, the scene outside last week's 9/11 Film Festival resembled that of any other big protest-oriented event. Truther organizations such as the Northern California 9/11 Truth Alliance and Project Censored crammed the lobby of Oakland's Grand Lake Theater, setting up tables with books, DVDs, "Wake Up and Smell the Fascism" bumper stickers, rubber stamps with the slogan "9/11 was an inside job," pictures of timeless John Lennon and Mahatma Gandhi, and "Deception dollars." Middle-aged white guys with long hair and tie-dyed shirts milled around the room, greeting each other like old friends. It looked and felt like a typical crowd of rabble-rousers — at least until you listened in on their conversations.

Hardcore Truthers are an odd bunch, even among activists. They tend to be well educated and enraptured with scientific jargon, even if they lack a science background. Bound by a shared skepticism of the mainstream 9-11 narrative, they hold a range of opinions about what really happened on 9-11. Some think it just needs to be better investigated as a crime scene; many believe it was a full-fledged government conspiracy; some call it a "psychological attack on the American people." Those trying to advance their own theories usually place the burden of proof on science — or a combination of empirical data and abstract conjecture that looks very much like science. Thus, Truther rhetoric is often dry, emotionless, and blindingly complex. That has made the movement very insular.

Now in its fifth year, the 9/11 Film Fest faces a bit of an inertia problem, akin to what's happened to the peace movement at large. "Remember during Bush/Cheney years we used to have anti-war rallies all the time?" asked festival founder Carol Brouillet. "Now with the regime change there's not as many rallies." On top of that, Brouillet and company faced the normal logistical difficulties of trying to coordinate the dozen guest speakers and trying to amass enough world premieres to make the event worth people's time (after all, most of these films are available for free online). And though one might have assumed that the recent Van Jones flap would help bring more recognition to the movement, Brouillet says that most media coverage served to discredit, rather than validate the movement.

Wednesday night wound up being the cool hip-hoppy half of the festival and Thursday the nerdy academic half. The main draw on Wednesday was the world premiere of *Loose Change 9/11: An American Coup*, the latest of a series made by twenty-five-year-old director Dylan Avery. His films, which feature slick hip-hop soundtracks and VH1-style editing (the new one is narrated by actor Daniel Sunjata), mark the apex of popular success for 9-11 conspiracy theory material. According to producer Korey Rowe, it is the most downloaded movie in the history of the Internet. During the post-screening discussion, no one challenged Avery's premise that 9-11 was planned and coordinated by the US government, or that the World Trade Center collapsed because of a controlled demolition rather than a plane crash or fire damage. Instead, audience questions ranged from basic (i.e., "Why do you call the film *Loose Change*") to specific ("Why was Obama included in the closing of this film?"). Clearly, Rowe and Avery were preaching to the converted.

Thursday was for the real diehards, not only because it featured twelve full hours of academic speakers and documentaries, but also owing to its more obtuse content. Among the films screened that day were *Anthrax War* by Bob Coen and Eric Nadler, a film about bio-weapons, and *The New American Century* by Italian filmmaker Massimo Mazzucco, which historicizes the neocon movement that some Truthers believe paved the way for 9-11. Retired Claremont School of Theology professor Ray Griffin delivered closing remarks for an audience that filled about half of the 520-capacity theater. Roughly 80 percent male, the crowd skewed older, and most of its members appeared to know as much or more about controlled demolition theory than their speaker, who is widely regarded as one of the movement's *forefathers*. The audience's erudition became apparent during the Q&A, for which attendees submitted paragraph-long questions on pieces of paper. The first question set the tone:

"Building 7 was built and managed by the real estate giant Tishman Speyer. TS also rebuilt Building 7, which has reopened. TS is headed by Jerry Speyer, who is a close friend of Larry Silverstein and David Rockefeller, and a member of the CFR, Trilateral Commission, and Bilderberg Group. He is also a committed Zionist. There is more, but suffice to say isn't it time for a closer look at Jerry Speyer and his firm?"

"Sounds like it," said Griffin.

Other questions got even more precise:

"Do you know of any thermate materials, chemical compounds, etc. discovered at the World Trade Center or the Pentagon explosion site that have been traced to a particular manufacturer?"

They also got increasingly elaborate:

"Dr. Griffin, regarding the reason for taking down World Trade Center 7: One theory is that it was an 'SCIF' — a Secure Controlled Intelligence Facility. This theory holds that the key CIA agents who were responsible for 9-11 were told to come to World Trade Center 7 for a debriefing that afternoon, and WTC 7 was taken down for the purpose of killing these CIA agents, thus covering up key evidence. What is your opinion of this theory?"

For engineers and data geeks like Greg Roberts, an out-of-work technical writer who now edits content for the web site 911Research.com, these scholarly dialogues are an absolute delight. Roberts stood in the film fest lobby on Thursday night, hawking copies of a new report he'd co-authored for the site 911Research.com — an intricate compendium of pie charts, graphs, and photographs taken under a microscope to show the chemical properties of thermate — a combustible compound he believes caused the 9-11 explosions.

But for the average person, such discussions can be pretty off-putting. Already maligned as conspiracy theorists and agitators, 9-11 Truthers have the added problem of being a bit wonky. It wasn't always that way. Brouillet says the group's first-ever screening in 2004 managed to pack San Francisco's Herbst Theater. Grand Lake Theater owner Allen Michaan, who donates his venue for two days because he believes in the cause, said activism across the board has gotten well, more wonky and middle-aged. "That tends to be the demographic with most of the political events that we do," he said. "Not enough young people come to these things. Not enough women."

Nonetheless, 9/11 Film Fest soldiers on and its founders seem relatively optimistic. Brouillet had high hopes for *Loose Change*, and it had indeed packed the theater on Wednesday night. As far as the second night — well, when you have David Griffin pontificating for more than an hour on nano-thermate right on the heels of a documentary about the anthrax germ war arms race, you can't expect every hipster in Oakland to show up. ●

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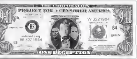

A 9/11 "deception dollar" designed by festival founder Carol Brouillet.

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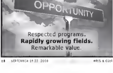

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Mark Morris Dance Group

A Well-Marked Marris

Musical depth and exacting choreography characterize Mark Morris' new show at Cal Performances.

Many things distinguish **Mark Morris** from other modern dance choreographers: his eclectic taste; his left-field sense of humor; his ability to import folk traditions and pop culture references into a classical template; his appreciation of large body types. Most important, though, might be Morris' understanding of the music he uses. He runs the gamut from 17th-century baroque music to Romantic composers to modernists like Charles Ives. (One of his earlier pieces, *Going Away Party*, even featured the Western swing band Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys.) While most of his contemporaries work off of counts (as in, "5, 6, 7, 8"), Morris digs deep into the melodic and rhythmic structures of his music. He dissects each piece and isolates its components, creating a specific step to go with each theme or "inner voice." Sometimes the result can be incredibly bizarre and complicated; usually it's subtle, balanced, and faithful to the source material.

Such is the case with *Empire Garden*, *Visitation*, and *V*, three pieces that the Mark Morris Dance Group will perform this week at **Zellerbach Hall** to launch Cal Performances' fall season. *Empire Garden* features Charles Ives' "Trio for Violin, Cello, and Piano," an incredibly tricky piece with polyrhythmic and polytonal structures, and places where each instrument plays its own distinct melody in its own key. "Mark went to great lengths to show that in the dance," said 28-year-old pianist Colin Fowler, who has worked with the company for four years. Fowler added that Morris' movements are so precise that his dancers wind up learning the music better than most musicians. You could hum any passage from Ives' Trio — or from the tricky Bartok String Quartet that Mark Morris Dance Group tackled in 2003 (for a piece called *All Fours*) — and the dancers would know exactly where you were in the piece.

That kind of musical understanding results in a lot of exacting choreography. *Empire Garden*, which has the dancers dressed in "Seventy-six Trombones"-style martinet band uniforms, includes sections where three groups of dancers move in isolation, each hewing to a different "voice" within the score. At the climax of the second movement all the dancers form a line at the back of the stage and begin marching forward. The lights come up full and the piano plays a well-known quotation from William Cowper's hymn "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood." "It's banal-ish and military all at the same time," said Fowler. *Visitation* and *V* also provide unique sensory experiences. In the former — which uses Beethoven's "Sonata for Piano and Cello No. 4" — dancers wear layered shades of brown and forest green. In the latter — set to Schumann's "Quintet in E-flat Major for Piano and Strings" — they divide into two groups, one wearing blue tops and short shorts, the other clad in green tank tops and pants. Such beachy apparel might be the biggest creative license that Morris took with his well-marked, exacting choreography. Otherwise, said Fowler, even the tiniest body movements evoke something from the music. Mark Morris Dance Group performs Thursday, Sept. 17 (8 p.m.), Saturday, Sept. 19 (8 p.m.), & Sunday, Sept. 20 (3 p.m.). $38-$52-$68. CalPerfs.berkeley.edu

— Rachel Swan

ATTRACTIONS

Oakland Artisan Marketplace Featuring Richmond jewelry, sculptures, ornaments, paintings, photography, crafts, soaps, clothing, floral arrangements, greeting cards, and more. Info: 510-238-4030. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th and Broadway sts. (Oakland)

Redwood Valley Railway Twelve-minute scenic journey by steam train through the wilderness of Tilden Regional Park. Info: 510-548-6100. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. $2 per ticket, or 6 tickets $10. Tilden Regional Park, entrance off Wildcat Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. 510-525-2233

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FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FUND-RAISERS

Asian Health Services' 35th Anniversary Fund-Raiser Gala Gala honoring The Family of Steve Alan and Gary Yee. Special appearance by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, plus a silent auction and raffle. For info, call Wendy Chang at 510-986-6830 ex. 288, or visit AHSCHC.org. Sat., Sept. 19, 6-10 p.m. $125. Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-1001

Festival of Economic Alternatives: Other Worlds are Possible Short film Worlds featuring works about innovations in the scientific system, ecological-disaster, collectivized economies, and other progressive ideas. Discussions to follow. Sun., Sept. 20, 11 a.m., $10-$20. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Richmond Main Street's First Wildcat Blues and Jazz Festival Featuring live music by Pete Escovedo, Ray Obiedo, and Lloyd Gregory in support of the Richmond Main Street Initiative, a community-based nonprofit dedicated to downtown revitalization. Sun., Sept. 20, 12-5 p.m. and Crossway Pavilion, 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond. www.crossways.com/

Swap! Not Shop! Recycled clothing swap and "Fugly Fashion Show" plus refreshments. Sat., Sept. 19, 3-5 p.m. $5 plus a bag of clean clothes, shoes, or accessories. Soundwave Studios, 2201 Wood St., Oakland. SoundwaveStudios.com.

A Tribute to Justice: 10 Years of Struggles and Victories with RSP Fund-raiser for Just Cause Oakland with Rev Carter Ensemble, Los Bomberos de la Bahia dance ensemble, poet Aimee Suzara, and DJ Santero, plus a catered dinner and jubilee. Thu., Sept. 17, 6 p.m. $30-$60 for dinner, $10-$25 for the after-party. Historic Sweet's Ballroom, 1933 Broadway, Oakland. 510-835-1113, HistoricSweetsBallroom.com.

KIDS

Children's Fairyland Amusements Activities Featuring arts and crafts, puppet shows, children's theater shows, the animal of the day, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m., Sundays, 11 a.m. $6. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. at Lake Merritt, Oakland. 510-452-2259, Fairyland.org.

Children's Kung Fu Classes Taught by the monks from the Shaolin Buddhist Temple and Education Foundation. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.; Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $11. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455, OACC.cc.

Children's Philippine Folk Dance Joy Loyola teaches traditional Philippine folk dances on selected Sundays. Sundays, 1-3 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $150 a course (call to register). Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455, OACC.cc.

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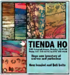

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the nonaggressive Aikido Tuesdays, 6:15-7:10 p.m., $10 drop-in rate. [illegible] Albany Karate for Kids, 1240 Marin Ave., Albany, 510-524-9002.

[illegible] Facilitated by [illegible] Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library [illegible] Branch, [illegible] Oakland, 510-[illegible] OaklandLibrary.org.

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District The District offers aquatics, golf, adult sports leagues (including [illegible] softball, football, and volleyball), activities for seniors and children of all ages, and more, at locations throughout Livermore. Call [illegible] for more info. Daily. LARPD [illegible] Livermore Community Center, 4444 E. Ave., Livermore.

Math Help Bring your math homework [illegible] Saturdays, 2-4 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Eastmont Branch, Eastmont Town Center, Suite 211 (7200 Bancroft Ave.), Oakland, 510-615-5726, OaklandLibrary.org.

Oakland [illegible] Theater Sing-Along [illegible] of the National Puppet Period present a fun and engaging puppet show. Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m. [illegible] Saturdays, [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, [illegible]

[illegible] for Kids Beginning [illegible] Saturdays, [illegible] Indian Classical Arts, [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]

Shimmy Shimmy's Kids' Santa [illegible] dance party [illegible] Sept. 18, [illegible] Alameda, 510-[illegible]

Straight Outta EastSide: A Youth Arts Expo Kicking off [illegible] youth programming with presentations from Visual Element muralists, [illegible] hip-hop artists, Guerilla Theater and Oakland Soul Dance Crew. Wed., Sept. 16, 4-7 p.m., free. EastSide Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-6629.

Wildlife [illegible] On Saturdays, hear a story and meet an animal. On Sundays, meet [illegible] Saturdays, 11:45 a.m.; Sundays, 1:45 p.m., [illegible] Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland, 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

LGBT

Transgender Legal Santa [illegible] Project East Bay and the Transgender Law Center sponsor a monthly legal clinic, wherein you can get one-on-one and an attorney for [illegible] minutes to discuss transgender legal issues. Third Thursday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Transgender Law Center, 5800 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 415-865-0176, TransgenderLawCenter.org.

Trip the Light Fantastic Beginners are welcome [illegible] East and West Coast swing, salsa, [illegible] nightclub two-step, [illegible] First and Third Fridays of every month, 7:30-11 p.m., [illegible]

PICKS

Festival of Grassroots Alternatives: Other Worlds are Possible

A [illegible] for the United States, and the best way for us to acclimate might be to look at how other countries have done it. Sunday, Sept. 20's **Festival of Grassroots Alternatives** at **La Peña Cultural Center** (3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) will feature short documentaries about alternative economic models in Africa and South America. It's a rare opportunity for forward-thinking folks to see how a traditional gift economy has helped Mali stave off poverty, or how the Landless Workers Movement has generated cooperative agriculture and land redistribution in Brazil. Ironically, many countries that suffer from a paucity of resources are nonetheless pushing ahead with economic reform, creating equitable education systems and experimenting with cooperative systems. Hence the festival's theme: "Other worlds are possible." Proceeds benefit Other Worlds, an international collaborative geared toward new economies. 6 p.m. $10-$50. LaPena.org. — *Rachel Swan*

Richmond Main Street Wine and Jazz Festival

A [illegible] for everyone, and right now many East Bay cities are braving the recession and launching grand revitalization projects. Among them is Richmond, a city buoyed by its new nonprofit the Richmond Main Street Initiative, which pledges to turn the area's largest thoroughfare into an "urban village" of sorts, with a large retail corridor and walkways suitable for pedestrian traffic. The plan will get a boost this Sunday, Sept. 20 with the **Richmond Main Street Wine and Jazz Festival**, featuring local jazz royalty Pete Escovedo (the head of a veritable Latin jazz dynasty), Ray Obiedo, and Lloyd Gregory. Held at Richmond's swanky new **Craneway Pavilion** (1414 Harbour Way South), the festival will also feature a variety of gustatory pleasures and aperitifs, along with some astounding waterfront views. Noon-5 p.m. $15-$40. RichmondMainStreet.org. — *R.S.*

Straight Outta EastSide: A Youth Arts Expo

East Oakland's San Antonio neighborhood [illegible] of the most [illegible] polyglot neighborhood in a city that's already pretty diverse — so it's no surprise that it houses an extraordinary cultural center. Known for its annual Malcolm X Jazz Festival, bimonthly *Pocha Kumbia* parties, book fairs, and arts commissions — including a new opera by Amiri Baraka and David Murray — **EastSide Cultural Center** (2277 International Blvd.) also offers some of the best youth programming in the Bay Area. On Wednesday, Sept. 16, the **youth arts expo** will showcase some of what the venue has to offer, including the Visual Element mural project, the [illegible] Flows hip-hop class with notable Living Legends [illegible] Guerilla Theater and Oakland Soul Dance Crew. Neighborhood kids ages fourteen and up get to try their hand at emceeing, breaking, graffiti, and performing arts. 4-7 p.m., free. EastSideArtsAlliance.com — *R.S.*

Cal's Alexis Gray-Lawson

Malia McClure

Cal Women's Volleyball

What's best in the West? This weekend the Pacific/West Coast Conference challenge takes place at **Haas Pavilion** (2250 Fulton St., Berkeley) as the **Golden Bear women** host both the St. Mary's Gaels and the University of San Francisco Dons. The Cal squad, ranked in the top 10 all year, will be seeing nothing but Pac-10 competition after this Friday, Sept. 18, and Saturday, Sept. 19's games, but for the two evenings ahead will play for bragging rights for the conference. The Golden Bears, if nothing else, will try to become the best of the bay. 7 p.m. $5-10. CalBears.com — *Libby Kleinman*

[illegible] Oakland, 510-[illegible] TheLightFantastic.org. Lake Merritt Dance Center, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] LakeMerrittDanceCenter.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Dance of the Outland: Singles Dance [illegible] of the last four American [illegible] Sat., Sept. 19, [illegible] p.m.-midnight, $20. Claremont Resort and Spa, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-843-3000, [illegible]

Dhollings de Harvest Community [illegible] for drummers, singers, and dancers and play [illegible] First and Third Sunday of every month, 3:30-6 p.m., free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Philosophical Roundtable A monthly discussion group. Third Sunday of every month, [illegible] Pleasant Hill, 925-[illegible]

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

[illegible] for Real Triathlon [illegible] yard swim, bike [illegible] run. Register at [illegible] or call 209-795-7830. [illegible] of top men and women in American age groups. Sun., Sept. 20, 7 a.m., $45-$75, [illegible] Shadow Cliffs Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton, 510-562-PARK.

Adult Kung Fu Oakland Taught by [illegible] from the [illegible] American Temple and Educational Foundation. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 6:45-[illegible] p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon. Continues through Dec. 31. $[illegible] Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Dance Oakland For info, visit [illegible] Saturdays, [illegible] Mondays, [illegible] Continues through Dec. 31. $[illegible] for 2 classes per week; $12/one for one class per week. [illegible] Grand, 1[illegible] Oakland Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Scholarship Run 10K race, 5K walk & run, and children's [illegible] Sat., Sept. 19, 7:30 a.m. [illegible] Shadow Cliffs Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton, 510-562-PARK.

Ballroom Dancing Taught by [illegible] Wednesdays, 8-10 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. [illegible] Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Bay Area [illegible] Clean Up Sign up at [illegible] Sat., Sept. 19, 9 a.m.-noon, free. UC Berkeley Aquatic Center, [illegible] Berkeley.

Bike Tours of Oakland [illegible] tours of Oakland [illegible] the Port of Oakland, West Oakland, Brooklyn, or Lake Merritt. Meet at 10th Street entrance [illegible] Reservations preferred. [illegible] or 510-238-3514. Third Sunday of every month, 10 a.m., free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St. (at 10th St.), Oakland, 510-238-2200, MuseumCA.org.

Creek to Bay Day Volunteer [illegible] Sat., Sept. 19, 9 a.m.-noon. [illegible] Lake Merritt, [illegible] Oakland, 510-444-[illegible]

[illegible] 10K & 5K Run and Walk [illegible] Mon., Sept. 21, 10 a.m. $35. Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Oakland Dr., Danville, 925-[illegible]

If She Can Do It, She Can Too: [illegible] [illegible] Sat., Sept. 22, 1-6:30 p.m., free. [illegible] San Pablo Ave., [illegible] 510-527-[illegible]

Santa Ladies' Golf Group Membership [illegible] play days weekly [illegible] Thursdays, [illegible] p.m. [illegible] Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland, 510-569-5555, info@playmetro.com, PlayMetro.com.

Metropolitan Golf Links: Chipping and Putting [illegible] how to select the proper [illegible] strategy, and more in this small class [illegible] Minimum 24-hour advance reservation required. Call 510-569-5555 and select [illegible] Saturdays, 2-3 p.m. $35. Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland, 510-569-5555, info@playmetro.com, PlayMetro.com.

Metropolitan Golf Links: Driving and Bunker Basics Learn the secrets to scoring. [illegible] Minimum 24-hour advance reservation required. Call 510-569-5555 and [illegible] Saturdays, 3:30-5 p.m., $35. Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland, 510-569-5555, info@playmetro.com, PlayMetro.com.

Pro Oakland Bike Team Weekly Bike Ride [illegible] ride up Tunnel Rd. and through the Berkeley Hills. Wednesdays, 6 p.m., free. Hermosa Cafe, [illegible] Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Ride for Special Olympics Registration [illegible] Sat., Sept. 19, 9 a.m. $25-$50, $40. [illegible] 6051 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, 925-[illegible]

Sandy [illegible] Ski Club Weekly Berkeley Recreational skiers, snowboarders, and other snow buffs welcome. Year-round activities include waterskiing, softball, tennis, golf and more. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. [illegible] The [illegible] Restaurant, 1551 Montalvo Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-937-1270.

San Francisco Frontrunners [illegible] starting at Stow Lake together with the rest of the LGBT community and friends. Saturdays, 9 a.m., free. [illegible] org. Golden Gate Park, 50 Stow Lake Drive, San Francisco.

Shaolin Kungfu and Qi Gong Oakland Students learn the elements of Shaolin quan or boxing forms that involve the hands, eyes, body and feet. Through Feb. 1, 2010. Shaolin Lun Han Temple, 2110 Berkeley Way, Berkeley.

More Listings Online
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SPORTS- SPECTATOR

Oakland A's vs. Cleveland Indians Sept. 17-18, 1:05 p.m.; Sept. 19-20, 1:05 p.m. $9-$48. **Vs. Texas Rangers** Sept. 22-23, 7:05 p.m.; Thu., Sept. 24, 12:35 p.m. $9-$48. McAfee Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121, Coliseum.com, 510-762-BALL, OaklandAthletics.com.

San Francisco Giants Vs. Colorado Rockies Wed., Sept. 16, 1:10 p.m. $10-$68. AT&T Park, 24 Willie Mays Plaza (Third St.), San Francisco, SanFranciscoGiants.mlb.com.

UC Berkeley Men's Soccer Vs. Santa Clara Sun., Sept. 20, 2 p.m. $4-$6. Edwards Stadium, Oakland Way and Fulton Street (UC Berkeley campus), Berkeley, 510-642-0580. Edwards Stadium, Oakland, UC Berkeley campus, 800-GO-BEARS, CalBears.collegesports.com.

UC Berkeley Volleyball Vs. Saint Mary's Fri., Sept. 18, 7 p.m. $5-$10. **Vs. University of San Francisco** Sat., Sept. 19, 2 p.m. $5-$10. Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley, Oakland Way and Fulton St., Berkeley, 510-642-0580. Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley campus, 800-GO-BEARS, CalBears.collegesports.com ●

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$20 or $15 with potluck item.
Read Shakespeare Aloud with Clifford Schwartz, Facilitator
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2035 Ashby Ave. (1/4 block from Ashby Bart)
Hours: Wed - Sat 12 - 6 PM and Sun 12 - 3 PM
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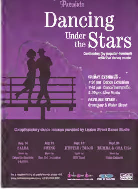

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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

A photograph by Ali Richards from the 2009 Santa Barbara fires.

All Systems Go

Three artists join forces in a fortuitously cohesive show

In *Residency Projects II*, the second of two annual Kala residency exhibitions, **Nichole Maury**, **Yasuaki Onishi**, and **Ali Richards** present work that they created independently during their 2009 stints at Kala Institute. "Pickup" group exhibitions, even small ones, often make for scattershot viewing, but such is not the case here, where the three sensibilities mesh seamlessly, as if by design. Maury's monoprinted abstract drawings, Onishi's weblike installations, and Richards' photographs of fire damage explore the collision between the natural and the artificial systems that we create (and live in). Art in the past evolved to reflect social and technological change, and now it is responding to the ecological crisis — call it a grassroots resiliency project. While the work can be seen as broadly ecological, it is hardly polemical — it's more investigation than exhortation, but still about the issue of our era.

Maury, a Michigan printmaker, presents silk screen monoprints. The printing process creates randomly dispersed patches or stains reminiscent of lakes or craters; around these she draws lacy networks of polygons. While previous works employed collage elements assembled into grids, the three "Connected" prints belong to our real world of crumpled stained papers (or collapsed geodesic domes) rather than to a timeless mathematical realm, incorporating and embroidering on chaos and entropy; they are "visual systems that live in fear of chaos, but are nonetheless infiltrated by an attraction to disorder." Onishi, an installation artist from Osaka, creates large, ephemeral-looking installations from commonplace industrial materials like plastic bags, tape, dripping glue, and plastic sheeting. His translucent lashed raft grid layers and metaphorical rootlets, sprouts and tendrils, quivering with every air current, take on a slow, pulsing life for the receptive viewer. They suggest Rothko's breathing rectangles, physically materialized in real space, yet ghostly and absent. "Two Fences (filtration)" suggests schematized layers of soil and grass shaken free of dirt, or any matrix of interdependent systems and organisms. "Ten receptacles (generation)" adds hanging basketlike forms to Onishi's dematerialized filament cages, suggesting nests and hives. Richards is a British documentarian/conceptualist who photographed fire damage from Santa Barbara and environs earlier this year for her series *Jesusita Summerland*, focusing on burned cars beneath mournfully naked branches, a scorched bit of trellis adorned with artificial flowers, the profile of a now-missing stairway on a stained cinderblock wall, a chimney mouth agape, and a blank-eyed pair of windows standing amid rubble and fallen trees. *Residency Projects II* runs through October 3 at **Kala Gallery** (2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley). Kala.org or 510-841-7000.

— DeWitt Cheng

ART GALLERIES

21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space. "Wrong!" 21 Grand presents its first-ever juried exhibition, with jurors [illegible] making the Annexes. These looks at artists mis-[illegible] and wrongdoings in "the decade of wrong." Reception Fri. Oct. 2, 7-10 p.m. Sept. 18-Nov. 1. 416 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7263. 21Grand.org.

ABOO Warehouse Space. Challenge of Champions Community art exhibit commenting on Oakland Homeless. Through Dec. 26. 4115 Abbot St., Emeryville. ABOOArtSpace.com.

Berkeley Art Museum. Human/Nature: Artists Respond to a Changing Planet Exhibition explores relationship between human communities and the natural world. Featuring work by Mark Dion, Ann Hamilton, [illegible], Page 23, [illegible]. Through Sept. 27. 2625 Durant Ave., UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Blankspace. It's Gonna be Awesome New work by [illegible]. Through Oct. 11. **It's Gonna be Awesome: [illegible] by Oakland painter [illegible]** Presenting large scale oil paintings. Through Oct. 11. 6608 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville. 510-547-6608. Blankspace-Gallery.com.

[illegible] Gallery. Composure and Living [illegible] Paintings by Crystal Village, wall by [illegible]. Through Sept. 29. 3318 Telegraph Ave. [illegible] 510-486-6873. [illegible]Cafe.com.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary. Dream Pools, Light Drifts Solo exhibition by Jenn Shifflet. Through Sept. 26. 25 Grand Ave., Oakland. 415-577-7537. ChandraCerrito.com.

Craft and Cultural Arts Gallery. Spontaneous Combustion: Artwork from the National Institute of Art & Disabilities Featuring work by more than 2[illegible] NIAD artists in various media including fiber art, jewelry, mixed media, paintings, and sculpture. Through Oct. 30. 1515 Clay St. (State of California Office Building, atrium), Oakland. 510-622-[illegible]. OaklandCulturalArts.org.

Creative Growth Art Center. [illegible] and Prints & Summer Print Art Exhibition 2009 Work by [illegible], prints, monotype and woodcut style, plus work by high school teams. Through Sept. 24. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340. CreativeGrowth.org.

Eclectix Gallery. [illegible] Prints [illegible] & [illegible] inspired art by Adam Lanes, Angelique Houtkamp, Alexis Lopez, Anna Tudan, [illegible], Barry Hocho, Ben Jeffer, [illegible], Catherine [illegible], Chris Dixon, [illegible], Christine Benjamin, [illegible] and many other artists. Through Oct. 4. 10582 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-344-7[illegible]. EclectixGallery.com.

[illegible] Art Gallery. Works On Paper [illegible] Featuring work by Dennis Johnson and [illegible], both Artists-In-Residence at [illegible] in Berkeley and members of the California Printmakers Society. Through Oct. 30. [illegible] Ave., El Cerrito. 510-[illegible]-8081.

[illegible]: The [illegible] Awesome [illegible] Encaustic drawings & mono-[illegible] by Cheryl Partrick, plus kinetic art by [illegible]. Through Sept. 18. **Through the Looking Glass** Group show featuring work by Bruce Lombardi, [illegible]. Mad Tea party Sept. 26, [illegible]. Sept. 25-Oct. 30. [illegible], Oakland. 510-835-8[illegible]. [illegible]Center.com.

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible]: The Painting is the Story Print exhibition. Through Sept. 30. 5807 San Pablo Ave., Oakland.

Frank Bette Center for the Arts. [illegible] Art Walk Painting exhibit. Through Sept. 28. 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

[illegible] Gallery. Chapter 7: Meeting Juan [illegible] — Further Adventures of a Chino Latino in Mexico Part of a travel photography series by Bob Jew documenting his adventures in Mexico. Through Sept. 30. 36 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-444-1900. [illegible]GalleryOakland.com.

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] & [illegible] Through Sept. 26. 482 23rd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].org.

Hearst Art Gallery at Saint Mary's College. California in Relief: A History in Wood and Linocut Prints Exhibition

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THURS 10pm no cover — NEW CLUB w/ DJ ZEPH & AZEEM, a night of eclectic hip hop music from Oakland's top DJ & MC duo

FRI 10pm $10 at 9pm — FLASHBACK FRIDAYS, [illegible] THE OAKLAND FAVERS, old school hip hop & all things funky

SAT 10pm $10 at 9pm — SMOOVE SATURDAYS, DJ JAMO & GUESTS, classic hip hop, neo soul, dancehall, reggaeton & world flavors

SUN 9pm no cover — FRESH STEPS, DJ [illegible] ON THE TURNTABLES, live hip hop performances

MON 9pm no cover — THREE DAY WEEKEND, DJ CUBSES, spinning local lowlrites

TUES 9pm no cover — SOUL FYAH, DJ SERO & KOOL KYLE, spinning reggae, dancehall & [illegible]

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- [illegible]
- [illegible] Language Institute [illegible] Korean School Fan Dance
- East Bay KA Senior Service Center Chorus
- House of David featuring David [illegible]
- [illegible]
- Kinetic Hip Hop
- Talary & Mystic Man
- [illegible]
- Native [illegible]
- [illegible] Dance Company
- Quest for Fire
- [illegible] & Dancers
- [illegible]
- [illegible] Everything You Know [illegible] Intergenerational Taiko
- [illegible]

Saturday, September 19, 2009

11:30 AM - 6:30 PM

Telegraph between 24th and 28th Streets, Oakland, CA

- ○ Children's Rides
- ○ BBQ Contest Judged by the Audience
- ○ ARTcart Project featuring Community Artwork
- ○ Delicious Food and Drinks
- ○ Relax at the Beer and Beverage Garden
- ○ A Variety of Vendors
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dance music theater

Cal Performances

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Mark Morris Dance Group

with the MMDG Music Ensemble

Thu & Sat, Sept 17 & 19, 8 pm and Sun, Sept 20, 3 pm

Zellerbach Hall Tickets start at **$30**

In a program set to music by Beethoven, Ives, and Schumann, the extraordinary Mark Morris Dance Group [illegible] with two West Coast premieres, *Visitation* and *Empire Garden* [illegible]. Mark Morris's [illegible] signature [illegible] and [illegible] and Morris's triumphant [illegible] (*San Francisco Chronicle*) [illegible] the program.

Program: *Visitation* set to Beethoven's Sonata for Piano and Cello No. 4; *Empire Garden*, set to Ives's Trio for Violin, Cello, and Piano; *V*, set to Schumann's Quintet in E-flat Major

Visitation and Empire Garden are commissioned, in part, by Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and Tanglewood Music Center of the [illegible]

Wynton Marsalis & the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

Tue, Sept 22, 8 pm

Zellerbach Hall Tickets start at **$30**

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Key Notes Series: Tue, Sept 22, 8 pm, Zellerbach Hall Lobby

[illegible] and Dr. Ferd Brown Jr. [illegible] KSCM FM discuss [illegible]

Corporate Sponsor: Pacific National Bank

American Premiere!

A House in Bali

An Opera by Evan Ziporyn

Libretto by Paul Schick (after Colin McPhee)

Directed by Jay Scheib

Bang on a Can All-Stars & Gamelan Salukat

Sat, Sept 26, 8 pm and Sun, Sept 27, 7 pm

Zellerbach Hall Tickets start at **$32**

Combining opera and contemporary music with [illegible] gamelan [illegible] and Balinese dance [illegible] American premiere [illegible] the Western century-long [illegible] with Bali. Based on the true stories of three Westerners, composer Colin McPhee, anthropologist Margaret Mead, and [illegible] Walter Spies, the work tells the story of their 1930s sojourn to Bali and how their [illegible] shattered by politics, war, and [illegible] the Balinese boy who becomes McPhee's [illegible] [illegible] brings together artists from Bali and [illegible], including New York's [illegible] Bang on a Can All-Stars, Gamelan Salukat from [illegible], and international [illegible] vocalists and dancers.

Check www.calperformances.org for a list of Campus and Community events from Sept 18 - 26.

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PICKS

Cakeland

Kurt Schwitters' famous environmental network, "The Cathedral of Erotic Misery," is lost, but Scott Hove's **"Cakeland"** is a descendant of that pioneering Dadaist work, destroyed during the bombing of Dresden in World War II. Both installations entail obsessive labor and mischievousness and satire. Hove's cakes are made of arranged cardboard boxes painted pastry-beige or Pepto-Bismol pink and ornamented with rosettes and swags of faux icing (joint compound or acrylic gel); they are stacked like igloo ice blocks into labyrinthine walls that surround an ornate chapel or chamber (which was separately exhibited at the San Jose Museum recently). Visitors, once beyond the fanged cake demon sentries lurking amid the rococo pastry-gun fripperies and plastic fruit, can meditate on final rewards and just desserts. Reception September 4, 6-10 p.m. (let there be cake); "Cakeland" runs through September 25 at **Cakeland Gallery** (5400 Shattuck Ave., Oakland). MRHove.com or 510-495-4280 (call for hours). — *DeWitt Cheng*

We Are Not Response for Any Belonging

Then Konrad [illegible], the Oakland [illegible], shows his visual [illegible] in this small selection of street photographs informed by conceptualism and sociopolitics. The title, appropriated from some mistranslated restaurant menu, is both ironic and affectionate toward the images he has encountered on his rambles: a school bus, eviscerated of its engine, sits beneath a freeway; a cemetery statue and a palm tree lean toward each other, silhouetted against a blue summer sky; a cell phone and doll abandoned on a curb or retaining wall makes mysterious still life; a Golden Gate Bridge pier, receding into the fog, becomes an immense building, its windows replaced by rivets; a stone pier juts into the bay, symmetrically separating skyline and mountains, with a small stela halfway along, demarcating SF and Alameda waters. ***We Are Not Response for Any Belonging*** runs through October 2 at **Zazu Wine Bar & Gallery** (550 Grand Ave., Oakland). OaklandSweetArt.com — *D.C.*

M&G

curated by Art Hazelwood. Features more than 100 artists. Through Sept. 21. **William Keith: Mountains of Illusions and Light** Through Sept. 21. 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. 925-631-4379. StMarys-CA.edu/arts/hearst-art-gallery.

Johansson Projects. Bad Shots by [illegible]. Through Sept. 18. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery. Ming Ren: My Perspective on a New Universe Combining East Asian brush painting with Western expressionism. Through Sept. 16. **Perspective** Paintings by Bay Area artist Ming Ren. Through Sept. 16. 2956 San Pablo Ave. (2nd floor), Berkeley. 510-649-0499. JFKU.edu/gallery.

Joyce Gordon Gallery. Surface Satin Painting exhibition featuring work by Matthew Cutlip, Jessica Dodson, Jay Mennweather, Alison Rash, Kevin Sloane, Chris Trueman, and Eric Ward. Through Oct. 31. **Accent/Musicians: Photographs by [illegible]** Through Oct. 31. **Surface Jams** Painting exhibition featuring work by Michael Cutlip, Jessica Dodson, Jay Mennweather, Alison Rash, Kevin [illegible], Chris Trueman, and Eric Ward. Through Oct. 31. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

K Gallery. Read This Right! Fifteen artists show digital prints on paper and canvas. Through Oct. 4. 2513 Berkeley Ave. (at Rhythmix Cultural Works), Alameda. 510-865-5060. Rhythmix.org.

Kala Art Institute. Residency Projects Part II: New work by [illegible], [illegible], All Vicarious and [illegible] Through Oct. 3. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

La Peña Cultural Center. Gabo: Outdoor Original paintings by San Diego-based artist exploring displacement, native spirituality, and Chicano street culture. Through Oct. 18. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Luka's Taproom & Lounge. Rachel D'Agostino Hallway exhibit features photographs of local graffiti. Through Oct. 31. **Jamie Nelson** Photography on display in the dining area. Through Sept. 30. **[illegible]** Acrylic on canvas paintings on display in the lounge area. Through Oct. 31. **Rock Paper Arts and Craft Inside-Out** Arts & crafts bazaar with work by local artists. Sundays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30. free. **Art Under the Trees** With festive apparel, jewelry, art, and photography. Journey Sept. 20. Third Sunday of every [illegible], 12-3 p.m. Continues through Dec. 20. 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. Lukasoakland.com.

Berkeley [illegible] Gallery. [illegible], Jo and [illegible], Peter Honig, Mary V. Marsh, Jamie Madison and Anna Vaughan Presenting [illegible] painting [illegible] Heads and Tails, [illegible] mixed-media new work, and *Encounter: New York* by Honig, [illegible], and Vaughn. Through Sept. 28. 25 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-484-7705. MercuryTwenty.com.

Mills College Art Museum. [illegible]: In Western and Inside-Out Exhibition of new work and an installation curated by [illegible]. Through Oct. 4. **Beauty and Decay: a Photographic Journey** With photographs by Vivian Stephenson and texts by Carola Caulfield. Through Dec. 13. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164.

Pro Arts. 10,000 Steps: A Profile of Four Squares Exhibition of the artist group [illegible] multiyear participatory stewardship project in and about Oakland's historic downtown parks. Artists reception Sept. 17, 6-9 p.m. Through Oct. 9. 150 Frank Ogawa Plaza (at Oakland Art Gallery), Oakland. 510-763-4361. ProArtsGallery.org.

Richmond Art Center. Stephen De Staebler: The [illegible] Way Ceramic and bronze sculpture presents figurative work. Through Oct. 10. **Las Cadiz, Craft Masters** Group show featuring work by members of La Cadie, a collective of artists and teachers. Through Oct. 10. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772. TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

Rock Paper Scissors Collective. Self As Super Hero: Critical Through Art for Social Justice [illegible] art and literary program presents work by local high school students based on common themes. Through Sept. 30. 2278 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-238-9171. RPSCollective.com.

Rowan Morrison Gallery. New Jamie on Paper by Michelle [illegible] Through Oct. 17. 330 40th St., Oakland. 510-384-5344. [illegible]

Secret Rose Tattoo, SRT Gallery. The [illegible] of Black Motherhood: [illegible] in [illegible] and Shadow [illegible] Through Sept. 30. 1728 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-883-1080. SecretRoseTattoo.com.

San Pablo Arts Gallery. Selected Printmakers 2009 featuring work by Al Dodge, Samantha Lavaman, and Cheryl [illegible]. Opening reception Sept. 20, 1-3 p.m. Sept. 19-Oct. 25 and Mondays. 13831 San Pablo Ave. (Maple Hall Civic Center), San Pablo. 510-215-3080. CI.San-Pablo.ca.us.

[illegible]. William [illegible]: [illegible] from the Roof [illegible] of [illegible] and History Curated by [illegible]. Through Oct. 28. [illegible] 20th St., Oakland.

Stone@Art Drawing Gallery. The Bright Illusions. Group show featuring work by John Casey, Mike Cl., Dora Ramey, Jaime [illegible], Kelly Mennon, Casey Jex Smith, and Aleen Tharp. Curated by Del Kaufmann. Through Oct. 16. 6002 San Pablo Ave. (in the Compound Gallery), Oakland.

The Compound. [illegible], Crystal Moore and [illegible] Through Oct. 11. 6604 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-596-9018. TheCompoundGallery.com.

MUSEUMS

Berkeley Art Museum. Material Witness Exhibit features works from the BAM collection that serve as "forms of witness." Through Dec. 20. **[illegible]** Solo exhibition curated by [illegible] with a [illegible] component [illegible]. Through Oct. 11. 2625 Durant Ave. (UC Berkeley campus), Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

de Young Museum. Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs. Exhibit organized by National Geographic, Arts and Exhibitions International, and AEG Exhibitions, with cooperation from the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities. Through Sept. 28. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr. (Golden Gate Park), San Francisco. 415-750-3600. DeYoungMuseum.org.

Habitot Children's Museum. [illegible] The original exhibition of [illegible] painting, *Silver Game*, *The Bug It's In*, *The Missing Pieces*. Daily. 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

Judah L. Magnes Museum. Memory Lab Interactive installation invites visitors to create digital family albums and publications based on their own documents, photographs, and memories. Daily. **Projections** Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collection of archival, documentary and experimental films. Daily. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950. Magnes.org.

Mills College Art Museum. [illegible] Photographs by Vivian Stephenson and texts by Carola Caulfield. Through Dec. 13. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology. Native Californian Cultures The "visible storage" exhibition comprises some 500 objects from the museum's collection of native Californian artifacts. Daily. **From Our Maker's Hand** [illegible] and permanent collection [illegible] of works from China, Egypt, and Peru, plus [illegible] in Africa, [illegible], Mexico and Mesoamerica. Daily. Kroeber Hall (UC Berkeley), Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.berkeley.edu.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection An ongoing presentation of works in architecture, graphic design, and industrial design. Daily. **Picturing Modernity: The Photography Collection** From the museum's own holdings, [illegible] by Abbott, Cunningham, Evans, Lange, Weegee et al. Daily. **Matisse and Beyond: The Painting and Sculpture Collection** Pieces from the museum's holdings, including work by Kahlo, Mondrian, Miró, Rauschenberg, Rivera, Duchamp, et al. Daily. **Between Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection** Large-scale installations and multiple-work presentations from the museum's collections. Daily. 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

THEATER REVIEW

ROCK THIS WORLD

Two musicals pay homage to past generations.

By Rachel Swan

It's a truism that some histories are better expressed through song, though it's quite difficult to capture a particular epoch with an exclusive musical soundtrack, especially if you want the soundtrack to endure twenty years later. But some people manage to do it well. Among them is local jazz vocalist and composer Molly Holm, the woman behind a new Shotgun Players production about African American women working in Richmond's Henry Kaiser Shipyards during WWII. Called *This World in a Woman's Hands*, the play uses jazz, spirituals, and work songs to shore up the sentiment in a story that's as much about old Jim Crow as it is about Rosie the Riveter. The play strains to be contemporary even as it travels back in time.

Such tension doesn't always become a play, but in this case, it works. In fact, *This World*'s success owes to a delicate balance of music, writing, and stagecraft. The play takes place in a set made to look like a factory, all wood trusses and two-by-fours with a shipping crane etched on the skyline. In one corner sits bassist Marcus Shelby, visible to the audience but virtually concealed beneath the scaffolding. Members of the nine-woman cast scramble about the set with their rivets and welding tools, building new victory warships while their men fight overseas. The women sing as they work, combining multi-part harmonies with vocal percussion (*wonka cheeka wonka cheeka*) to replicate the sound of hammers hitting steel. They read letters from their husbands, quote the poet Lorca, and volley insults. They include among their ranks several southern transplants, including protagonist Gloria B. Cutting (Margo Hall), a well-read Latina immigrant with socialist leanings (Dena Martinez), a few working-class white women, and even an aspiring jazz singer (the exceptionally talented Rebecca Frank). All coexist more or less peacefully in a workplace plagued by the same inequities as society at large.

This World spawned from the same team (composer Holm, dramatist Marcus Gardley, director Aaron Davidman) that produced the 2008 Shotgun play *Love Is a Dream House in Lorin*, which also documented an obscure piece of East Bay history. Young, Oakland-born playwright Gardley is ambitious in scope: In *Lorin*, he chronicled two hundred years in a South Berkeley neighborhood; in *This World* he revisits a period marked by productivity, population booms, and unions that demanded equal pay across racial lines. Gardley also looks at the more sinister moments in this story, such as the Port Chicago explosion that killed 320 servicemen, 202 of them African-American. In the play's second half he draws connections to modern-day Richmond, with its violence and economic blight. He abruptly fast-forwards to a Tent City in the Iron Triangle, where former shipbuilder Gloria G. Cutting, now in her eighties, hands out apple fritters to young protesters. The shift is a little disorienting and it's not entirely clear what point Gardley is trying to make (characters make vague references to the factory closures and economic decline after WWII, but that argument seems hazy at best). It's the only extraneous part in an otherwise airtight script.

The rest of the play works beautifully. Shelby and the cast provide lovely interpretations of Holm's score, which imports some decidedly modern harmonies into an old work-song template. The women in this play have an ingrained rhythmic command, conveyed in their assembly-line movements and the orchestrated sound of their tools. (Sometimes all you hear is a low hum, a bass ostinato, and the pang of a hammer.) Holm's music brings shape and texture to the story. More importantly, it helps bring out the music in Gardley's writing, which combines its dialectal cadences with poetry, homiletic language, and even a bit of magical realism (in a myth about Richmond's "Wisdom Tree" that ties everything together). Coupled with Shelby and Davidman, these artists show incredible chemistry. Hopefully, Shotgun will corral them again to vivify another piece of East Bay lore.

Just as hard manual labor is great for the music in *This World*, hardcore leisure inspired the soundtrack of 1967 tribal love-rock musical *Hair*, now enjoying a revival with Alameda Civic Light Opera under the direction of Jeff Teague. Known for portraying the anxieties of Vietnam War-era adolescents in such infectiously peppy songs as "Aquarius," "Manchester England," and "Let the Sunshine In," it's one of the most enduring Broadway musicals — definitely the only one that can make a happy romp-and-stomp out of things like masturbation, miscegenation, sodomy, drug use, poverty, Draft card burning, and a generational rift. For all its provocations, *Hair* couldn't quite withstand the test of time. It's definitely locked in a particular Greenwich Village counterculture that expired in the early 1970s. Yet the themes have enough parallels with today's war in Iraq that *Hair* still resonates with modern audiences.

Loyal to the original script, ACLO's production combines bright, pastel-colored sets and era-appropriate costumes (bell bottoms, bandanas, India prints, baby dolls, tie-dye) with a wall-to-wall rock soundtrack in which every song bleeds into the next. The songs are immortal, and the ensemble gives them the heft and spirit they deserve — buoyed by stand-out vocalists Paulette Herring as Dionne, and Ryan Riggan as Claude. Yet, what distinguishes this rendition isn't the music per se (some of the singers are quite good, while others flub the high notes) but a slide projection in the background that shows footage of the Civil Rights movement, choppers in Vietnam, US soldiers, posters for Woodstock, and vintage album covers. There's a lot of getting-down with the audience in this production, which opens with actors milling through Kofman auditorium in their old hippie apparel, placing their hands on people's heads, murmuring mantras, and thanking everyone for showing up. Thus, they make a "be-in" of what's actually a pretty voyeuristic play (as underscored by the naked scene at the end of the first act). Not quite the Sixties, but it's still resonant nostalgia. "Let the Sunshine In" sounds as good as it ever did. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

This World in a Woman's Hands runs through October 18 at the Ashby Stage in Berkeley (1901 Ashby Ave.). $15-$25. ShotgunPlayers.org. *Hair* runs through Sept. 27 at Alameda's Kofman Theatre (2200 Central Ave.). $30-$34. ACLO.com

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COMEDY

Comedy Night hosted by Tony Sparks. Thursdays, 8 p.m., free. BrainWash Cafe, 1122 Folsom St., San Francisco, 415-861-3663, BrainWash.com.

Comedy Off Broadway With a revolving team of comedians featured on HBO, Comedy Central, and Night Shows. For info, visit ComedyOffBroadwayOakland.com. Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, $10. Washington Inn, 495 10th St., Oakland, 510-452-1776.

Comedy Slam [illegible] by Blinky the host filled with rousing [illegible]. Mondays, 8 p.m., $10. Rock-It Room, 406 Clement St., San Francisco, 415-387-6644, Rock-It-Room.com.

Jeff [illegible] Thu., Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m., Fri., Sept. 18, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., Sat., Sept. 19, 7 & 9:30 p.m. $20-$35. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800.

[illegible] Mahoney & [illegible] Tue., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. $10-$20. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800.

Magic & Merriment w/ Big Al Catraz & Timon Fred bring you an irreverent theater performance of magic and comedy games. Saturdays, 8 p.m., $20. Off-Market Theater, Stage 2? (965 Mission St.), San Francisco, 415-046-7176.

Tuesday Night Mic w/ a rotating lineup of SF Comedy College alumni. Tuesdays, 9-10 p.m., $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco, 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com.

Open Mic Comedy presented by SF Standup. Tuesdays, 8-9 p.m., free. Annie's Social Club, 917 Folsom St., San Francisco, 415-974-1585, AnniesSocialClub.com.

Rotating Club Showcase w/ [illegible]. Fridays, 8 p.m. $12-$15. http://www.sfcomedycollege.com/. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco, 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com.

SF Rotating Showcase Sundays, 8 p.m., $8. Punch Line, 444 Battery St., San Francisco, 415-397-4337, SF.PunchLineComedyClub.com.

Hump Day Show rotating acts. Wednesdays, 8 & 9:30 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco, 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com.

Thursday Night Fling Thursdays, 8 p.m., $5. www.sfcomedycollege.com/. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco, 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com.

DANCE PERFORMANCE

Live Salsa Band Beginning and intermediate dance lessons, plus a live musical performance. Wednesdays, 8 p.m., $10, $7 students. Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1159, ShattuckDownLow.com.

Mark Morris Dance Group Presenting Empire Garden and Visitation, with the MMDG Music Ensemble (Edwin Bonnet, cello; Colin Fowler, piano; [illegible] Yelanda, violin; Jessica Troy, viola; & [illegible] Hagemann, violin). Sept. 17-18, 8 p.m., Sun., Sept. 20, 3 p.m. $38-$68. Zellerbach Hall, UC Campus, Berkeley, 510-642-9988, CalPerformances.org.

LIVE VARIETY

Apollo 9000 Style A monthly jam presents [illegible] talented professional and Addison performers. Third Saturday of every month, 8-9 p.m., $5-$10. Black Repertory Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-652-2120.

Live presents Glass w/ [illegible]. Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m., free. Warehouse 416, 416 Webster St., Oakland, 510-658-3991, TheWarehouse416.com.

[illegible] & [illegible] Theatre presents [illegible]. Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 5, $10-$12. Martuni's Piano Bar, 4 Valencia St., San Francisco, 415-241-0205.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

American Idiot Musical by Michael Mayer and choreographed by Steven Hoggett. Book and lyrics by Billie Joe Armstrong. Based on the band's multi-platinum album. Through Nov. 1. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

Art By Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton, directed by [illegible]. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 27. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette, 925-283-1557.

Awake and Sing! by Clifford Odets, directed by Joy Carlin. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m. Continues through Sept. 27. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

Awake and Sing! [illegible] written by Clifford Odets, directed by Joy Carlin. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m. Continues through Sept. 27, $15-$55. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

Center REPertory Company All Shook Up Musical based on the book by Joe DiPietro, inspired by and featuring the songs of Elvis Presley, directed and choreographed by Robert Barry Fleming, with musical direction by [illegible]. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 2:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 11, $14-$48. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-943-7469, DLRCA.org, 925-295-1400.

Fair Moraga Civic Light Opera presents a new production of the [illegible] musical. Directed by Jeff Teague. For info, visit ACLO.com. Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; Fri., Sept. 25, 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 27, $30-$34. Kofman Auditorium, 2200 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-522-7100.

Lost Addison by [illegible]. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sun., Sept. 20, 2:30 p.m. Continues through Sept. 26, $10. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-232-4031, Masquers.org.

Machiavelli's The Prince Central Works Method play written and directed by Gary Graves. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 19, 5 p.m. Continues through Sept. 27, $14-$25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-1381, BerkeleyCityClub.com.

On the Town Musical by Leonard Bernstein, about three sailors roaming through New York, with guest dancers from Company C Contemporary Ballet, directed by Mindy Cooper. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Sept. 27, $35-$52. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-943-7469, DLRCA.org.

PEN presents Writers' Theatre, Presenting *A Night of Short Plays* Berkeley presents by Josh Foley, John Carl, [illegible], and Michael Lange. Sept. 18, 8 p.m., $7. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-5999.

See How We Are Impact Theatre presents a contemporary adaptation of Antigone written and directed by Jon Tracy. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 17, $12-$17. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave. (at Hearst St.), Berkeley, 510-464-4468.

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This World in a Woman's Hands written by Marcus Gardley, directed by Aaron Davidman, original music and vocal score by Molly Holm. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through Oct. 11, $15-$30. The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-6500, ShotgunPlayers.org.

More Listings Online
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PICKS

Awake and Sing!

Bessie Berger is the formidable dam at the center of Clifford Odets' 1935 drama *Awake and Sing!*, about a smart, vicious matriarch who tries to withstand a hardscrabble existence by manipulating her children. Played by stage and screen star Ellen Ratner in Aurora Theatre Company's new production, Bessie is the type of Depression-era dowager who keeps everyone — including her layabout husband — under an iron boot heel. She arranges marriages, subverts any relationship that doesn't seem economically or socially prudent, and with a straight face, keeps the spirit from spilling out (but emerges it in moments of rage), counterpoises her kids at the dinner table, and insults people with a vengeance (e.g., "He's got more brains in his finger than you've got in I don't know where"). Ratner is dazzling in this play, as are Rod Gnapp (the snappy, quasi-fascist boarder who winds up seducing her daughter), Charles Dean (the Bergers' self-made, rich uncle), and Ray Reinhardt (the Marxist grandfather who becomes a de facto moral compass). Fantastically rich dialogue and a multilayered storyline make this play timeless, even if it's frozen in time. Yet this particular version succeeds largely on Joy Carlin's stage direction and Nina Ball's period-appropriate sets. Through September 27 at Berkeley's **Aurora Theatre** (2081 Addison St.). $15-$55. AuroraTheatre.org — *Rachel Swan*

Machiavelli's The Prince

Small gestures reveal big things in Gary Graves' latest Central Works play *Machiavelli's The Prince*, which imagines a meeting between Niccolò Machiavelli and Lorenzo de Medici II. Two incredible actors — the rather dim-witted, bespectacled Richard Frederick and the taller, more evil-looking Michael Navarra — play two characters engaged in a complex and delicate contest for power. Machiavelli (Frederick) tries to curry favor with Lorenzo (Navarra) by presenting a "handbook for tyrants" (i.e., an instruction manual on how to inspire fear in subjects, defeat enemies, and kill selectively). Lorenzo then has to choose between moral integrity and political ambition. Rather than create stark contrasts of good and evil, Graves sets his characters in a pressure cooker and lets them battle it out — often, they use objects in the room (a pitcher of water, a crown, a Rubens study of Leonardo da Vinci's painting "The Battle of Anghiari") to process emotions. The play is taut and unsettling, and Graves' writing takes history with fiction in an inventive way. Through Sept. 27 at **Berkeley City Club** (2315 Durant Ave.). $14-$25. CentralWorks.org — *R.S.*

Too Big to Fail

Now [illegible] years old and well-entrenched as the Bay Area's leading producer of free agitprop plays, the San Francisco Mime Troupe is tackling ever-more-complex issues. Where in the past he poked fun at right-wing "family values" zealots and Iraq war profiteers, head writer Michael Gene Sullivan is now appropriating the language of stock brokers and economists. His new play *Too Big to Fail* makes a parable of the global economic crisis. Set in a remote African village, it's the story of an ambitious but good-hearted man who falls prey to a similar [illegible]. After his beloved goat gets repossessed, he sets off to fight the Wall Street demons who are trying to corrupt his village. Scored by Pat Moran (of Lord Loves a Working Man fame), *Too Big to Fail* tells the story of the current recession in the form of African folktale. Once the villagers acquire "the magic of credit," they start buying cell phones with Beyoncé ringtones, Nintendo Wii, and mortgages on new huts, naively thinking they've benefited from the banks' largesse. From an audience vantage point it's easy to laugh and watch the situation unravel. It's too easy to forget that so many of us made the same mistake. At **Bay Area parks** through Sept. 27. Free. SFMT.org — *R.S.*

Awake and Sing!

Mark Morris Dance Group

Wildly innovative and movingly lyrical, the always-quirky and dance darling **Mark Morris** never fails to intrigue and entertain — and make modern dance wonderfully accessible. Fresh off Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart festival, Morris and his eponymous troupe return to Cal Performances this weekend to reprise his moving and much-admired *V* and introduce two new works to the West Coast, ethereal *Empire Garden* and intricate *Visitation*. The Mark Morris Dance Group Ensemble will play the Schumann, Ives, and Beethoven (respectively) pieces live, a rarity for Morris in Berkeley that will add yet more depth to the performance. No Morris show is complete without Kool-Aid acid-trip costumes, and this one promises to be as eye-catching for its delightful color as for its [illegible]. At UC Berkeley's **Zellerbach Hall** (Telegraph Ave. at Bancroft Way) on Thursday, Sept. 17, and Saturday, Sept. 19, at 8 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 20, at 3 p.m. $38-$68. CalPerfs.berkeley.edu — *Claudia Bauer*

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LECTURES & LIT

Human Cargo

Patrick Radden Keefe chased a trail of international intrigue

Patrick Radden Keefe. Sal Velandasan

On June 6, 1993, a battered freighter ran aground 150 yards off Rockaway Beach in Queens. Its 286 passengers, who had spent much of their voyage from China packed into a space little larger than a suburban garage, were told to jump ship and swim for shore, where their American dream was to begin. Some drowned. Those who reached the beach were hailed as survivors, then jailed — this was not part of the plan — as illegal aliens. Some were deported, others granted asylum. Some remained in Pennsylvania's York County Prison for years.

They'd placed their fates in the hands of Cheng Chui Ping. Having immigrated from Fujian Province in the 1980s, "Sister Ping" was New York City's most notorious "snakehead" — an illegal smuggler of human beings. She charged $35,000 — a fortune to the average Mainlander, largely worked off upon arrival dish by dish, in Ping's restaurant. A modern version of an age-old scenario, it made Ping tremendously rich.

"She was feared, but also admired and respected," says **Patrick Radden Keefe**, who will discuss his book *The Snakehead: An Epic Tale of the Chinatown Underworld and the American Dream* on Thursday, September 17 at **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley). "To the Chinese community ... she was like Robin Hood." Photographs show a high-cheekboned, no-nonsense, makeup-free square face. "You wouldn't look at her twice if you passed her on the street," Keefe notes. "But ... she made $40 million."

Keeping watch over those who owed Ping money was the vicious Fuk Ching gang, which used surveillance cameras, knives, and hammers to ensure that debts were paid. Because "this was Chinese-on-Chinese crime" against undocumented victims, "nobody was paying any notice" — until the *Golden Venture*. Then the world heard a tale of death, dreams, immigration, and a vast criminal empire.

Ping's customers "were fleeing poverty and what they perceived as dead-end lives" in China, Keefe says. "Some of them were fleeing persecution at the hands of the government — whether because they were democracy protesters, or they had violated the one-child policy, or they had simply offended some local party official. People left for many reasons. But they shared a conviction that the land they were journeying to was both free and full of opportunity, that by working hard they could make good lives here and that things would be more comfortable and prosperous for their children."

The *Golden Venture*'s passengers busied themselves in prison by making art with recycled paper and toothpaste. Although most had no previous artistic experience, their work was later exhibited at the Smithsonian.

"The snakeheads are still operating," Keefe says, "and they are more sophisticated than ever, though there is less of a customer base in China than there was during the 1980s and 1990s. There are also analogs for the snakeheads in other cultures around the world, from the coyotes on the Mexican border to human smugglers who bring Africans from Tripoli to Italy or from Morocco to Spain." 7:30 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com

— Anneli Rufus

PICKS

Rachael Brownell

Thanks to the Twelve Steps, **Rachael Brownell** lives one day at a time — and takes no days for granted. At **Pegasus** (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Sept. 17, Brownell discusses *Mommy Doesn't Drink Here Anymore: Getting Through the First Year of Sobriety*, her memoir about how as a young "cocktail mom," way back when she used alcohol to blunt the rough edges of new motherhood. 7:30 p.m., free. PegasusIndiebound.com *— Anneli Rufus*

Jennifer Holm

Heroine of an award-winning series of books for young readers by brother/sister author/illustrators Jennifer Holm and Matthew Holm, Babymouse is an adolescent rodent who goes to school and summer camp, spars with rivals, and nurtures dreams of stardom. At **A Great Good Place for Books** (6120 La Salle Ave., Oakland) on Sunday, Sept. 20, **Jennifer Holm** introduces *Babymouse: The Musical*. 11 a.m., free. GreatGoodPlace.indiebound.com *— A.R.*

Jasmine Dawson, Kathy Briccetti, and Mellan Carter

She is/was your best friend or your worst enemy, your role model or the object of your nightmares — or she was (or is) someone somewhere in between. *Who's Your Mama?: The Unsung Voices of Women and Mothers* is a new anthology on an old theme. Meet East Bay contributors **Jasmine Dawson, Kathy Briccetti** and **Mellan Carter** at **Diesel** (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Sunday, Sept. 20, 3 p.m., free. DieselBookstore.com *— A.R.*

Joseph Fischer

In an old Richmond building, **Joseph Fischer** happened upon some 5,000 pieces of local children's artwork, dating from World War II to the Vietnam War. A former research associate at UC Berkeley's Center for Southeast Asian Studies, art-expert Fischer will discuss his book-in-progress about the cache, *Children's Art, Children's Words*, at **Moe's** (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Monday, Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m., free. MoesBooks.com *— A.R.*

LECTURES

Documentary Film Screening: *Under Our Skin* A cautionary film about the dangers of getting Lyme Disease in Tilden Park. Fri., Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m., free. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

Fung Ku: Conquering Pacific Skies: An International Dialogue about Oakland's Involvement in the Dawn of Pacific Flight and Chinese Aviation Commemorating the centennial of the first successful flight of a self-propelled, mechanized aircraft on the Pacific Coast, by Chinese pilot Fung Ku. Thu., Sept. 17, 6:15 p.m., free. Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, Oakland.

Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do? Arts & Letters lecture by Michael Sandel. Call 510-848-2001 to order advance tickets. Wed., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m., $6-$15. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

[illegible]'s *Street [illegible]* Documentary Screening. Documentary about the street [illegible] of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Fri., Sept. 18, 6:30 p.m., $5. [illegible] Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. (at Bonita St.), Berkeley. 510-848-4824. www.bfuu.org.

Mothers, Family and the Women's Movement in the 21st Century Lecture by Joan Blades. Sun., Sept. 20, 7 p.m., free. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities that Arise in Disaster Lecture by Rebecca Solnit. Thu., Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m., free. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227.

Sicko Film Screening. Documentary examines health care in Cuba. Wed., Sept. 16, 7 p.m., $5-$10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Caitlin [illegible] and Kimberly Yuda the evening *Happy at Work, Happy at Home, The Girl's Guide to Being a Working Mom*. Wed., Sept. 23, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave. (Montclair Village), Oakland. 510-339-8210.

California of the Past Digital storytelling station allows people to record personal testimonials. Daily, free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Library.hayward-ca.gov.

[illegible] Discussing *Invisible Mountain*. Fri., Sept. 18, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave. (Montclair Village), Oakland. 510-339-8210.

Contemporary Writers Series: [illegible] Lecture by the playwright and screenwriter. Tue., Sept. 22, 5:30-7 p.m., free. Mills Hall Living Room, Mills College (5000 MacArthur Blvd.), Oakland. 510-430-2255. www.mills.edu.

A Fireside Chat with Maestro Lawrence Kohl of the Pacific Chamber Symphony Tue., Sept. 22, 7 p.m., free. Orinda Library Auditorium, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda. 925-254-2184.

[illegible] Discussing *Babymouse 10: The Musical*. Sun., Sept. 20, 11 a.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave. (Montclair Village), Oakland. 510-339-8210.

Jim Powell & Peter Spagnuolo Read., Sept. 18, 7:30 pm, free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Joe Fischer Discussing *Children's Art, Children's Words*. Mon., Sept. 21, 7:30 pm, free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Kim Addonizio Discussing *Lucifer at the Starlite: Poems*. Thu., Sept. 17, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave. (Montclair Village), Oakland. 510-339-8210.

[illegible] Zink Discussing *Prophecy of the Sisters*. Sat., Sept. 19, 4 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave. (Montclair Village), Oakland. 510-339-8210.

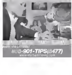
Rebecca Solnit Discussing *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster* as part of the Berkeley Arts & Letters event. Thu., Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m., $6-$15. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

[illegible] Discussing *How to Play the Harmonica: And Other Life Lessons*. Sat., Sept. 19, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave. (Montclair Village), Oakland. 510-339-8210.

Who's Your Mama? Reading. Local writers Kathy Briccetti, Mellan Carter, and Jasmine Dawson discuss their contributions to the [illegible] anthology *Who's Your Mama?: The Unsung Voices of Women and Mothers*. Sun., Sept. 20, 3 p.m., free. Diesel Books, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

SPOKEN WORD

La Tigresa & the Tongues of Flame Jazz and spoken word. Sun., Sept. 20, 8 p.m., $8-$10. [illegible] Gallery & [illegible] Center, 2095 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. ●



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BODY & SOUL

Wind, Water, Clutter

Feng shui consultant Mira Brower applies ancient principles to modern home decor

When clients hire feng shui consultant **Mira Brower** to clear their clutter, diplomacy becomes as crucial as geomancy, Chinese philosophy, or yin-yang polarity.

"Clutter — especially chronic, overwhelming clutter — is a symptom of a bigger issue," says Brower, who is teaching a feng shui workshop at **Pearl River Consignment** (366 Grand Ave., Oakland) on Saturday, September 19. "It is up to me to find out why someone feels it is not safe to let things go, even when they want to. People who collect clutter do it for many different reasons, but all of them are issues that need to be handled with care. I like to approach the situation with understanding, without judging them and letting them know that clutter is something that so many people are struggling with in our society of consumption, and that they are not alone." Brower also likes to start small. "By choosing one room, one drawer, one closet or area to focus on, the project becomes much more manageable." Once the client sees that neatened-up drawer or closet, "the feeling of having a clear space can become contagious and can spread to the rest of their home."

Mira Brower.

Based on the Chinese words for wind and water, feng shui is an ancient system based on the premise that the physical components of any environment can be arranged so as to improve the flow of life-energy, or qi.

Although she has worked in this field professionally for only four years, Brower remembers having "always been interested in what makes a room feel good. As a kid, I would move my bed around until I felt like it was in the 'best' place, without really knowing that was what I was doing." It was as if she was already unwittingly sensitive to the Taoist concept of five "elements" — wood, fire, earth, metal, and water — interacting to produce either good or bad effects. A teenager when she first learned of this, Brower later studied it formally at San Diego's Western School of Feng Shui. Now she writes a home-decorating column for Examiner.com and does consultations — even over the phone and via e-mail.

And she savors the transformations that sometimes happen in the wake of her work. One client hired her because "she was having issues with people thinking that she had a 'cold' personality at work. When I got to her living room, I noticed a beautiful wood carving." The carving was in the region of the *Bagua* — an eight-sectioned feng-shui "map" bearing trigrams from the I Ching — that pertains to fame and personal reputation. Crucially, the carving belonged not to the client but to a friend with whom she was on bad terms.

"We took it down right away and replaced it with a much softer, natural scene," at which point the client's work relationships improved significantly, according to Brower.

Yet another client, Brower remembers, "was a close friend that was looking for a relationship, so we worked on her space, adding lots of romantic imagery and soft, sensual decorations. Separately, I was working with a male client that was looking for a relationship as well. We activated the romance area of his home as well. Soon after, the two met through mutual friends and started dating." Two years later, they're still together. 10 a.m., free. Advance registration required. PearlRiverConsignment.com

— *Anneli Rufus*

PERSONAL GROWTH

21 Days of Peace Through Personal/Planet with meditation & yoga. Buddhist retreat (sliding scale fee applies) and community dinners. Through Sept. 27. The Center for Urban Peace, 2584 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-549-3333, UrbanPeace.org.

Food for Thought Readings by Berkeley psychic Joanne Rohlfs. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $15. Ready Feed Gallery, 3337 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4494.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

2nd Bedrock Sit-a-Thon for [illegible] Bay Area Sit for Change in movement for Transformative Change. For more information, call 510-549-3153 ex. 717. Sat., Sept. 19, 10 a.m., free. Civic Center Park, Center St. & Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

Adventures in Jewish Unitarian Multi-week Kay Ireland series. Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.-noon. Continues through Dec. 31. $7, $100 for a 15-lecture series. Temple Beth Sholom, 642 Dolores Ave., San Leandro. 510-357-8505, TempleBethSholom.org.

Core Meditation Worship Nights Courses open to everyone, but highly recommended for people interested in leadership positions in the church. An optional potluck dinner at 6 p.m. will precede worship (7 p.m.) and program (7:30 p.m.). Call for schedule. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302, UUCB.org.

LGBT Meditation Group Vipassana leadership group. E-mail [illegible]. Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. East Bay Meditation Center, 2141 Broadway Ave., Oakland. 510-268-0696, EastBayMeditation.org.

Meditation, Dharma Talk and Beginner's Night Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. Empty Gate Zen Center, 2200 Parker St., Berkeley. 510-845-8565.

Personal Theology Seminars Guest speakers every week. Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302, UUCB.org.

Qi Gong Learn Qi Gong from the Masters from the Shaolin Buddhist Temple and Education Foundation. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $16 (with Berkeley class packages). Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455, OACC.cc.

Thursday Evening Exploring Unitarian Universalism Programs Exploring Unitarian Universalism Theology, first Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Exploring Prayer and Spiritual Purpose for Unitarian Universalists, second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Exploring Unitarian Universalist Heritage and Tradition, third Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Exploring World Religions, fourth Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Exploring Theological Perspectives, fifth Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays. Continues through Dec. 31. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302.

Worship Pastor Dr. John Bjornelle leads a weekly service at a multi-ethnic church where "everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord." Sundays, 9 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. 510-654-1070. Agape Bible Fellowship, 2065 13th St., San Pablo. 510-233-0607, AgapeBFM.org.

YOGA & BODYWORK

InterPlay as a Life Practice Cynthia Winton-Henry and other InterPlay leaders lead an ongoing class on moving, breathing, improvising, and playing. Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. $10-$25. InterPlayce, 2273 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-465-2797, InterPlay.org.

Lunchtime Kundalini Yoga Wednesdays, noon. Continues through Dec. 31. $5-$11 donation. William Rhyan Conference Room, Sproul Hall, Berkeley.

Tai Chi, Meditation, and Qigong With Jeffrey Kessler. Thursdays, 5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $50-$110 per month. Continues Mondays. 2315 Prince St., Berkeley. 510-704-9081, ChaoHeart.org.

Weekly Yoga Instructor Lila Dolores Ann of The Yoga Company in San Ramon teaches how to do simple poses. Saturdays, 9:15 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. Dublin Public Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. 925-828-1315, www.aclibrary.org/branches/dub/default.asp?topic=Dublin&cat=DubHome

PICKS

Angel Workshop

Are angels [illegible] more to you than just sparkly images on Christmas cards? A workshop at **Angel Light Books** (5347 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley) — home of the Angel Tea Room and Fairy Tea Garden — on Saturday, Sept. 19, focuses on connecting with angels, interpreting their messages, and cooperating with them in mortal relationships and other flesh-and-blood matters. 1 p.m., $30. AngelLightBooks.com — *A.R.*

Autumn Equinox Celebration

As the wheel of the year turns yet again, the **Dream Institute of Northern California** (1672 University Ave., Berkeley) hosts an **Autumn Equinox Celebration** on Sunday, Sept. 20, featuring an opening reception for an exhibition of reverent photographs by local artist Linda Elvira Piedra, whose black-and-white images of tree peonies — a flower native to Tibet — convey themes of friendship and love. 3 p.m., free. Dream-Institute.org — *A.R.*

Dances of Universal Peace

Join the circle and dance to live music, singing along as the crowd chants sacred phrases from many faiths. On Friday, Sept. 18, as on every third Friday, a **Dances of Universal Peace** session at **Durant House** (2330 Durant Ave., Berkeley) is open to beginners and old-timers alike. Easy dance steps celebrating the Sufi, Christian, Sikh, and other traditions will be taught throughout the evening. 7:30 p.m., $5. PeaceWorksDancesNA.org — *Anneli Rufus*

Enneagram Class

Based on [illegible] angles with a [illegible] popularized in the Western world by G.I. Gurdjieff and [illegible] 20th-century mystics, the Enneagram is a system for organizing human personalities into nine types. At the **Lake Merritt United Methodist Church** (1255 First Ave., Oakland) on Sunday, Sept. 20, Iliff Theological Seminary grad Linda Petty teaches an introductory **Enneagram class**. 5:30 p.m., $20. LakeMerrittUMC.org — *A.R.*

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AQUARIUM AGE

REFLECT DURING THE RETROGRADE

For the week of September 16-22 2009

By Raffee Finn

Tension, frustration and overload sweep through emotional bodies this week, and as these mighty currents coalesce with personal and collective situations, emotional bodies are sure to move into overload and overwhelm. And it isn't likely anyone is going to be "over it" anytime soon. You can say you're letting go, but that doesn't actually mean you are releasing the stress and strain or practicing non-attachment skillfully. It's going to take concentrated effort and expanded awareness to override the intensity, internal or external. It will also take determination to find and maintain a peaceful stance that will do no harm. Rather than drowning in a sea of reactions, devote time and energy to figuring out how to breathe your way to conscious and considerate responses.

The first source of stress is Mercury Retrograde — and this one is packed with snafus: mechanical, technical, and communicational. (Yes, I know there is no such word, but, hey, Mercury rules language, so I guess that means I can make up a retrograde word.) Retrogrades are never a good time to update or install software, or change your voicemail message. It also wrecks havoc with contracts, negotiations, and traffic. (And today, as I write this, especially traffic.) Terrible retrogrades demand drastic measures, so don't hesitate to take your patience pills. (Just don't resort to heroin — the retrograde will be over by September 29.) Remember, Mercury Retrograde slows the pace of daily life, which should create opportunities to reflect and review. Unfortunately, when the slow-mo-rewind-go-over-the-details-one-more-time pace of the retrograde turns glacial, frustration morphs into intolerance. Give up the need to hurry and instead, make nice.

But the true source of tension is the third exact contact of the Saturn/Uranus opposition, which occurred yesterday, Earth time (and, measured by cosmic moments, is still occurring). This opposition signifies the dissolution of the status quo and the resistance of the status quo to that decompensation. And we are definitely in the resistance stage of the breakdown process. To say that this opposition represents unrest would be an understatement. It would also be an understatement to say the current political and cultural turbulence is going to end anytime soon. When the structures of society are forced to change because they no longer serve, chaos is probable. (But that doesn't mean it will lead to civil collapse.) From my astrological perspective, we've been living in chaos since the last time Saturn and Uranus opposed each other in the 1960s. That sixties-era opposition also challenged the status quo and the status quo has been resisting ever since. The religious right and the glorification of Reagan are actually responses to the last Saturn/Uranus cultural revolution; we could contextualize what's happening right now as a continuation of what started then. And while I'm not suggesting (although I want to) that the solution is wearing flowers and love beads, making love instead of war might move us out of the mess we are in.

This week, put a flower in your hair and do your best to believe in the power of love.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that, too.

ARIES The solution to your most immediate dilemma is figuring out how to reconcile seemingly oppositional forces. Consider taking no "unnecessary action" and rather than forcing the situation, allow it to unfold.

TAURUS You can blame the retrograde for what seems like insurmountable delays. Or you can praise the retrograde for providing opportunities to review and reconsider certain choices. It's up to you — but I'd go with gratitude.

GEMINI Time is once again what's needed to gain perspective, so continue to take daily life at your own pace. Rather than rush from one responsibility to another, do whatever is necessary to maintain your mental health.

CANCER Spontaneous conversations reveal startling information, and your reaction is likely to be deeply emotional. Be authentic about what you feel, but try not to get lost in the process.

LEO Be determined to find a peaceful resolution and then quiet your mind and allow your intuition to guide your choices. I'm not suggesting miracles. I'm simply advising listening to your heart.

VIRGO It's all about calling in your deepest wisdom — and then following that inner counsel. Just be prepared to be inspired to make some previously unconsidered and definitely unconventional choices.

LIBRA As Mercury reviews the details of recent weeks, the secret of your success will be not allowing that review to devolve into an litany of regret. Stay open to what you can learn, but refuse to brood.

SCORPIO Your normally deep waters run even deeper this week as you take in your immediate environment at a new level. Give yourself enough time to digest the information and you'll make the appropriate adjustments.

SAGITTARIUS Try not to let strong feelings about your career circumstances throw you off track. Yes, the situation is intense, but you have an innately optimistic attitude to pull you through.

CAPRICORN Be in the moment, stay in your integrity, and resist the temptation to try to control the outcome. As hard as it might be, simply let the situation unfold in its own time and its own way.

AQUARIUS The challenge is staying objective and while this sounds like a "can do," maintaining neutrality may not be possible when you factor in strong emotions. Make "keepin' it real" your mantra, and you'll do fine.

PISCES Once again, it's all about refusing to position yourself as a victim. So rather than concentrate on the "cost" of certain relationships, focus on what you're learning about yourself and others. ●

For More Info

Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9204, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Raffee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Raffee Finn

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A CHALET WITH A VIEW

The enchanting Lake Chalet features Lake Merritt as its top attraction

By Matthew Stafford

Lake Chalet, the latest high-profile restaurant to open in the burgeoning, rejuvenating city of Oakland, has set out to do for Lake Merritt what its sister establishment, the Beach Chalet in San Francisco, has done for the Pacific Ocean: showcase it as the central motif of a grand yet congenial dining experience. In Lake Chalet's case this meant converting a hundred-year-old boathouse into a handsome Mission Revival getaway with an outdoor deck, an open kitchen, two fireplaces, adjacent dining rooms extending over the water, and romantic panoramas of the light-bedecked lake itself, complete with working quay and an honest-to-God Venetian gondolier. The result: an enchanting, convivial dining destination where you can take in the swell and the sailboats over a beaker of suds and a platter of kumamotos while the grill sizzles, the ice tinkles, and the moon rises over the water. And if the food doesn't always live up to the vistas and the rustic-modern setting, it's a pleasant enough accent to the chalet's more aesthetic attractions.

Lake Chalet

1520 Lakeside Dr. (at 14th St.)
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Sample Menu

Dungeness Crab Consommé	$17
Pea and Ham Hock Soup	$7.50
Salmon and Potato Risotto	$20
Petrale Sole Piccata	$22
Pineapple Upside-Down Cake	$4
Lakeside Crush	$9

The building's been around since 1909, first as a pumping station and municipal boat house, then as parks department offices and Lake Merritt Rowing Club headquarters. After extensive renovations under Gar and Lara Truppelli, proprietors of the Beach Chalet and the Park Chalet, the Lake Chalet opened in mid-August. The low-slung tiled-roof building is made up of four distinct dining areas: the Pump House, a casual bistro at the entrance with an open kitchen and an impressive eighty-foot marble bar; the Dock, which extends over the lake and features an outdoor grill and its own bar as well as the services of a gondolier named Angelino; and two dining rooms, the Gondola Room (site of private parties and buffet brunches) and the Lake Room with its hearthside lounge, Arts and Crafts detailing, and clubby, welcoming vibe.

The starters are the best part of the meal, offering a freshness and wit more or less lacking from the rest of the menu. The English pea soup combined a light broth-like texture with the taste of freshly shelled sweet peas and ample shards of ham hock that added a rich, smoky flavor to the whole. The Dungeness crab cakes were meaty and juicy and sweet and succulent with just enough filler to bind the seafood together and bits of daikon and pickled onion accenting things nicely. Dungeness also starred in the crab-orange consommé, which wasn't a consommé at all but a mosaic of orange and grapefruit segments, avocado puree, Meyer lemon oil, and generous fingers of crabmeat so sweet and luscious you'd swear we were in the middle of Dungeness crab season. The tuna ceviche resembled tartare more than ceviche, but who could object to a tall glistening mound of ruby-red ahi with the creamy texture of a good porterhouse?

The entrées are competently prepared and absolutely unobjectionable, exactly what you'd expect from a restaurant with a terrific view and little inclination to rock the (figurative) boat. The petrale sole's light, crisp breading kept the fish moist and tender, but the lemon-caper sauce that accompanied it delivered too much salt and not enough citrus. The upscale fish sticks — brandade of white fish formed into four largish Lincoln Logs, then breaded, fried, and served with (not enough) watercress and malt vinegar reduction — were on the cumbersome side. The baby back pork ribs were perfectly moist and tender but lacked that smoky, snarky oomph you want from a platter of barbecue. The most successful entrée was the "risotto" made of shredded potato instead of rice and served with a thick filet of salmon. While the fish was overcooked, it still boasted plenty of flavor, and the tender strands of potato were tastefully accented with meaty, earthy mushrooms and a smoky bacon-laced vinaigrette.

The competently prepared entrées are exactly what you would expect from a place with a great view Chris Duffey

At the end of a long lazy meal, it's nice to be able to nibble something sweet without committing to a big platter-spanning dessert, and Lake Chalet offers a choice of five "mini" meal-closers along with four regulation-size desserts. The larger sweets included a coconut cream pie made up almost entirely of whipped cream unburdened by the flavor of coconut and a hearty and respectable if largely uninspiring apple crisp with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. But the tiny ramekin of burnt cream was lush and silky beneath its broiled-sugar chapeau, and the miniature pineapple upside-down cake was as luscious and as buttery as it's supposed to be and almost always isn't.

The seafood-centric menu doesn't offer much in the way of vegetarian dishes. Veggie burgers are available at lunchtime. Starters include hummus with cucumber, tomatoes, and olives, and a seasonal selection of cheeses with fruit, almonds, and honey. There are two meatless salads: baby greens with goat cheese, pears, and pumpkin seeds, and heirloom tomatoes with basil and fresh burrata. And the one flesh-free entrée, vegetable pot pie with Yukon potato gravy, can be supplemented with sides of polenta, french fries, or sautéed spinach.

The wine list is made up of 42 (primarily California) chardonnays, sauvignon blancs, pinots, merlots, and cabs, most of them in the $30 to $50 price range. (Pine Ridge's subtly spicy Napa Valley viognier is a nice match for the Dungeness crab with citrus and avocado.) Twenty-two wines are available by the glass. The restaurant also serves five specialty beers crafted at Beach Chalet's microbrewery in SF, including a Pumphouse Wheat, a Regatta Red, and a Lake Merritt IPA. Among the house cocktails are the Gondola Sour, a staggeringly sweet concoction of rum and amaretto, and the more copacetic Lakeside Crush, vodka, lime, sauternes, and fresh grapes stirred into a bright refreshing cocktail. With the Bay Area entering its balmiest half season you could do a lot worse than a comfortable chair on Lake Chalet's dock, libation at hand, brunch approaching or dusk descending, Neapolitan love songs stroking the breeze. ●

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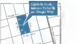

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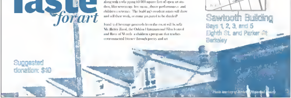

Photo courtesy of Berkeley Historical Society

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

This guide only lists restaurants [illegible] East Bay Express food critics. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print list runs not as regularly as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price and more. Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $—up to $10 per person. $$—$10–$25. $$$—$25–$50. $$$$—more than $50.

RICHMOND & NORTH

[illegible] 10320 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-8355. (Mexican) $

El Gaucho 3145 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-222-7667 (Italian/Peruvian/South American) $$

[illegible] Hot Pot City 3288 Pierce St. (in the Pacific East Mall), Richmond, 510-526-8088 (Chinese) $$

DAIMO Chinese Restaurant 3288A Pierce St. (in the Pacific East Mall), Richmond, 510-521-3868. (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$$

[illegible] Meals 3900 San Pablo Ave. Suite [illegible], Hercules, 510-724-2320. ([illegible]) $

Taqueria La Bonita 12845 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-2388. (Central American/Mexican/Salvadoran) $

[illegible] Seafood Restaurant 10956 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-0841 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY SOLANO

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1591 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-8185 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cactus Taqueria 1881 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-1881. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Fatapple's 7525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3433. (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Kensington Circus Pub 389 Colusa Ave., Kensington, 510-524-8814. (English/Irish) $$

Khana Peena 1889 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-2588. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] 1757 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1811. (Chinese) $$

Lalime's 1329 Gilman St., Albany, 510-527-9838, 510-559-7033 (online) (Californian/Greek/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 1235 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-0036 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 605-A San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-1532 (French/Italian) $$$

[illegible] 1588 Sea View Ave., Albany, 510-525-1350. (French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Rendez-Vous 1111 Solano Ave., Albany, (510) 527-4111 (French) $$

[illegible] 1535 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-3547. (California Cuisine/French/Bakery/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] Pub 1385 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-2375 ([illegible] Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Sam's Log Cabin 945 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-558-0494. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 877 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-525-7900 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Vanessa's Bistro 1715 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-8300 (Tapas/Small Plates/Vietnamese) $$

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BERKELEY-NORTH

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2827 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cafe Gratitude 1730 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 415-824-4652 (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] 1805 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Bakery/Mexican) $

[illegible] Restaurant 1440 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1458 ([illegible]) $-$$

Cesar 1515 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0222. (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Cha-Am 1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-9664 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

[illegible] 1514 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-880-1800 (Chinese/Dessert/Tea House) $

Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] Taqueria 1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-4201 (Mexican) $

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen 2261 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6900. (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Biryani House 2011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-5500 (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] 1443 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1155 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Bobby G's Pizzeria 2072 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-8866 (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $-$$

Cafe Tibet 2020 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5553. (Tibetan) $-$$

Chaat Cafe 1902 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1831. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

Downtown Bar and Restaurant 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-3810. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Henry's 2600 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-4232 (California Cuisine) $$

International House 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9490 (Eclectic/Ethnic) $

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277 (Brewpub/Pizza) $$

Long Life Vegi House 2129 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6072 (Chinese/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Looney's Smokehouse 2400 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-649-8828 (Barbecue) $-$$

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[illegible] 1923 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2985 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Pomegranate 1585 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-868-5580 (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$

Razan's Organic Kitchen 2119 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-486-0449. (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 2580 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1958 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Taste of the Himalayas 1700 Shattuck Ave. Suite A, Berkeley, 510-849-4983 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] Thai Cafe 1456-2465 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

BERKELEY WEST & EMERYVILLE

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Doyle Street Cafe 5515 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-548-2612 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

Fellini 1401 University Ave., Berkeley, (510) 841-5730 (Italian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] 1850 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-1465 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

India Chaat and Cuisine 624 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-1200. (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

Jimmy Bean's 1290 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-528-3435 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Juan's Place 941 Carleton St., Berkeley, 510-845-6904 (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3355. (Indian/Pakistani/Kosher-Halal) $

[illegible] [illegible] 40th St., Emeryville, 510-653-3381 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

O Chame 1830 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-841-8783 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Japanese/Sushi/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

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[illegible] [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-204-9090 (Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Townhouse Bar and Grill 5862 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-652-6151 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Vik's 726 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-4412 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Adagia 2700 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-647-2300 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Booths/Berkeley Farmers' Market (Derby St. @ Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley, 510-548-3333. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Cuisine of India 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-644-7866 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-0421. (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

Holy Land 2965 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1672. (Middle Eastern) $

Shaan Indian Cuisine 2497 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-841-4318. (Indian/Pakistani) $

Paragon Bar & Cafe 41 Tunnel Rd. (Claremont Hotel and Spa), Berkeley, 510-549-8585 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8538. (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Shen Hua 2914 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-8888 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-985-9000 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] 1511 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5819 College Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0444. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cactus Taqueria 5642 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-6180 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Citron 5484 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5484 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/French) $$$-$$$$

Flavors of India [illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-658-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $$

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Amore Gelato Italiano

[illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-1858. Displayed in swirly peaks, Italian ice cream rises above the rims of its containers to proclaim: *Fame made on the premises by a true-born Italian.* Amore Gelato Italiano reflects Alberto Malvestio's youth along the gelato-happy seashores of Capri, Sorrento, and the Cinque Terre — and in his uncle's gelato shop, where he learned to compose sweet sit-and-eat wonders before opening this place. Every day, hours before opening, Malvestio begins work in his fishbowl-view kitchen behind the shop, squeezing fresh lemons, cracking coconuts, peeling mangoes, scooping out melon pulp, pouring Sicilian pistachios and Piedmontese hazelnuts and Swiss cocoa into his Carpigiani machines with fresh milk — or water if he's making sorbetti — to create eighteen flavors. Some are Italian classics; others are his own. Even the plainest flavors are complex, racing across the consciousness in flashes, ribbons, and waves, like love. $

Creations

2370 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-0180. Dispensing self-serve tart frozen yogurt sold by weight, independently owned Creations banks on two frozen-dessert fads made wildly popular by the Pinkberry and Yogurtland chains. Fluffy in a way that the brain struggles to align with its sharp, tongue-tanning tang, Creations' tart taro, mango, and lychee taste refreshingly true to the actual fruits, although its tart strawberry simply tastes sour. The empty cups into which patrons pick-and-mix from among eight yogurts and a dozen-plus toppings that include mochi, grass jelly, honey, and Froot Loops are so huge that the ounces can pile up fairy-tale fast at 36 cents each, startling hapless self-servers at the register. $

Gelateria Naia

[illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1568. At Naia, flavors reign. Of the [illegible] 44 on any given day, [illegible] created that day or very recently at the five-shop chain's Hercules kitchen and [illegible]. Ever since its 2002 founding, Naia has been rightly renowned as the place where nearly anything you choose — rose, fig, roasted banana, Thai young coconut, Nutella, salted caramel, whisky, almond, even vanilla — will pound you right into the ground, but in a good way. Blacking out every other possible sensation. [illegible] meditation, Naia's Chocolate Mortale "death by chocolate" means what it says. Naia uses only fresh fruit and no powders or mixes; other ingredients are sourced locally from premium suppliers such as San Francisco-based Tcho Chocolate (which replaces the Scharffen Berger formerly used here) and San Leandro-based Pavel's yogurt. Soy flavors and sorbetti secure a strong vegan following. $

Yogurt Harmony

2237 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-5903. At Yogurt Harmony's comfy tables, flanked by local artists' original works, patrons [illegible] tart fro-yo while playing Yahtzee or Sorry from a stack of board games stockpiled for their pleasure on a shelf. It's a cafe. As the art rotates every few months, it's a gallery. And it's a rumpus room. A daily four-flavor rotation means you can't plan what you'll get before you go, while plain tart and vanilla custard are the most popular staples. Acquired-taste taro draws legions of the loyal. The "shave-ice bowl" comprises pristine icy flakes infused with guilty-retro-pleasure condensed milk, crowned with barely-now-frozen fro-yo, guilt-free fresh fruit, chewy bits-of-heaven mochi chunks, and velvety-and-curiously-complementary red-bean paste. $

Grand Tavern

3601 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-4644. Hearty comfort food classics like club, ratatouille, lamb shank, and rice pudding are jazzed up with delectable Afghan accents at this friendly down-home Oakland hangout. The vegetarian appetizers — mashed carrots, puréed squash, roasted spinach — are surprisingly delectable, and the lamb is a luscious, slow-cooked dream. Get the rhubarb with ice cream for dessert. Exceptional Belgian beer list. $$$

A Taste of Africa

3015 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-9364. Cameroonian cuisine [illegible] from a wet and fertile soil and wildly diverse altitudes and climates. It's earthy and ancient with its mineral-rich baobab and huckleberry leaves and manioc, yet not untouched by forty years as a French colony. Running a mostly one-man operation, Malong Pendar — who began by selling his cooking from a van at the Ashby Flea Market in 1991 — lovingly, enthusiastically prepares *whole fufu, root meal, puff-puff, suale* [illegible], and other dishes beloved in his parents' homeland. But Pendar's versions, unlike the originals, are mainly vegan and vegetarian because he is a big believer in the power of health foods. Much of the fare is naturally salt- and spice-[illegible], but an optional habanero-fueled hot sauce remedies that. Not all menu items are available every day; weekends are most plentiful, but on Tuesdays you've got very little choice. But the housemade ginger-lemonade is an after-anytime and amazingly sublime. $$

510-595-4950. (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

[illegible] 5316 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2300. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] 3251 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-652-8157. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

[illegible] 6209 Claremont Ave., Oakland, 510-595-0868. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$

[illegible] 5402 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-1523. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] 5317 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-6092. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

[illegible] 6150 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-2456. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Sunday Temescal Farmers Market, Oakland, 415-812-0190. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Bakesale Betty 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1213. (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

[illegible] 3707 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-655-2960. (Korean) $$

[illegible] 4100 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-8002. (Korean) $$

[illegible] 5299 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-8228. ([illegible]) $

[illegible] 4915 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2100. (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$$

[illegible] 5101 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5358. (Korean) $-$$

Pyung Chang Tofu House 4701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-9040. (Korean/Southeast Asian) $$

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

[illegible] 4395 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-601-8305. (Burgers/Sandwiches/Italian/Wine Bar) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Grand Lake Farmers' Market, Oakland, 415-812-0190. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 4162 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-7180. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Holy Land 677 Rand Ave., Oakland, 510-272-0535. (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $

[illegible] Restaurant 4270 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-8220. (Italian/Pizza) $$

[illegible] 3407 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-663-2500. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$$

[illegible] 3000 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-8864. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] 3834 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-9444. (Caribbean) $$

Z Cafe and Bar 2735 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2505. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124. (Italian/Pizza) $$

OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ

Breads of India 948 Clay St., Oakland, 510-834-7684. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] 301 8th St., Oakland, 510-835-5288. (Chinese/Seafood) $

[illegible] 725 Washington St., Oakland, 510-465-5400. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/[illegible]/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Golden Lotus 1301 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-893-0383. (Chinese/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 351 12th St., Oakland, 510-832-5238. (Restaurant) $$

[illegible] 2437 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-832-1500. (African) $$

[illegible] 178 Oakland St., Oakland, 510-835-8275. (Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 2907 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-808-4318. (Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

[illegible] 368 9th St., Oakland, 510-826-1585. (Chinese) $

Tay Ho 344 12th St., Oakland, 510-836-8388. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Uncle Willie's Bar-B-Que and Fish 614 14th St., Oakland, 510-465-9200. (Barbecue) $-$$

Yo's Restaurant 95 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4470. (Restaurant) $$

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200. (Japanese/Sushi) $$$

Yung Kee Restaurant 888 Oakland St., Oakland, 510-839-2010. (Chinese) $

ALAMEDA

[illegible] [illegible] Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-828-4800. (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 2319 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-523-5402. (California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] 2311 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-769-9553. (Deli) $

Dragon Rouge 2337 Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-57[illegible]-8830. (Restaurant) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Park St., Alameda, 510-769-1081. (Tapas/Small Plates) $

[illegible] 1440 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-9133. (Mexican) $$

Mama's Table 3215-A Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-814-0179. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

Ole's Waffle Shop 1507 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-8108. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

OAKLAND-EAST

[illegible] [illegible] International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-0828. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Kim Huong Restaurant 702 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-444-2500. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] [illegible] International Blvd., Oakland, 510-451-8888. ([illegible] Asian/Vietnamese) $

Taqueria [illegible] 3000 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-751-4290. (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] 7158 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible]-1388. (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] 4345 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-8125. (Mexican) $

[illegible] 3419 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-7605. (Mexican) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

[illegible] Cafe [illegible] B St., Hayward, 510-581-2646. ([illegible]) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-276-7855. (Italian) $-$$

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 27313 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-782-6888. (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

[illegible] 904 [illegible] St., Hayward, 510-538-8997. (Mexican) $$

[illegible] 2181 Washington St., San Leandro, 510-357-4801. (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] 20500-E Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-670-0227. (Filipino/Southeast Asian) $-$$

[illegible] Barbecue Restaurant 484 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-533-9060. (Caribbean) $$

[illegible] 1427 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-352-[illegible]. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Val's Burgers 2155 Kelly St., Hayward, 510-889-8957. (American/Diner) $

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

[illegible] [illegible] Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, 510-668-0958. (Chinese) $$-$$$

[illegible] Cafe 3056 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-796-3400. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

[illegible] 1762 Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-675-0485. (Chinese) $

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] Washington Blvd., Fremont, 510-656-9600. (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $$$

Kinder's Custom Meats [illegible] Boscell Rd., Fremont, 510-440-1510. (Barbecue/Deli) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 1888 Decoto Rd. (at the Union City Marketplace), Union City, (510) 324-8838. (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

[illegible] 40930 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-683-8600. (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) $

PLEASANT HILL, CONCORD & EAST

[illegible] Bistro [illegible] Sutter St., Ste. C, Concord, 925-875-3277. (Eastern European/German/Austrian) $$

[illegible] Taqueria and Barbecue 2151 Salvio St., Suite L, Concord, 925-681-4251. (American/Barbecue) $-$$

[illegible] Gyros and Hot Dogs 240 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, 925-687-8454. (Greek/Turkish) $

Hollywood Pizza, Pasta & More [illegible] Colorado St., Concord, 925-521-0000. (Italian/Pizza) $

Kinder's Custom Meats [illegible] Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, 925-825-3202. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 5411 Lone Tree Way #110, Brentwood, 925-308-7997. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 2227 [illegible] Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-798-2333. (Barbecue/Deli) $

L&L [illegible] Barbecue [illegible], Pleasant Hill, (925) 981-3614. (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 5618 Lone Tree Way #120, Brentwood, 925-638-5288. (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

[illegible] [illegible] Willow Pass Rd., [illegible], 925-688-5185. (Mexican) $$

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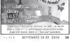

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No Two Pinots Are Alike

Two undiscriminating wine consumers learn an important lesson.

My neighbor Carmella Carella is fond of saying she's never met a pinot she does not like, though she may have to revisit that claim after a recent pinot tasting in a South Berkeley garret, where wine seldom graces the cabinets or the refrigerator. We learned several things about pinot that evening. First, never tell your heterosexual male friends that you're planning a "pinot tasting." (It can have a different connotation than you may have intended.) Second, pinot comes in different colors. And there's not a whole lot in common between a pinot grigio and a pinot noir. Also, it comes from many different parts of the world, and it's generally not cheap — compared to other varietals, it's tough to find a bottle that sells for less than $10. It's occasionally redolent of Band-Aids or bank counters, but it can taste surprisingly sweet. And, of course, the quality varies.

We launched the experiment at Berkeley Bowl's wine section, where I selected anything cheap that had the word "pinot" in the title. Thus we wound up with two grigios, two pinotages, and one noir, all presumably spawned from the same genetic pedigree. Prices ranged from $7.50 to $10.25, which barely tips the scale for a budget wine buyer. Overall, the grigios had a lighter, tangier, bubblier flavor, while the noirs — not surprisingly — were oaky and husky, in a not always unpleasant way. The **2008 Paggo Pinot Grigio ($10.25)** was akin to a pungent lemon juice, while the **2007 Il Pino Pinot Delle Venezie ($9.95)** tasted a bit like the liquid inside of sourgrass — or water at the surface of a marsh. Carella (not her real name) would beg to differ as she found the Il Pino quite agreeable.

As for the red and noir vintages, we had a more adventurous and overall cheaper selection. The **2008 Montpellier Pinot Noir ($7.50)**, straight from a Napa vineyard, tasted a bit like crushed blackberries. Ms. Carella's personal favorite, **the Ernst & Co Pinotage 2007 ($7.50)** from South Africa, it had a subtle, warm flavor and made a suitable dessert wine. Unfortunately, the tasting closed on a sour note with another South African import, the **2008 Ken Forrester Petit Pinotage Stellenbosch ($9.95)**. The worst in the bunch, this wine dredged up childhood memories of things we used to eat when our mothers' backs were turned: used dishtowels, Band-Aids, plastic utensils, blades of grass. Advertisers say it goes well with spicy foods, but I'd call it an alternative to soap-in-the-mouth.

For all its shortcomings, pinot is a fairly evocative wine, and it generally elicits strong reactions. Carella dismissed the Stellenbosch as unsavory, but took the Ernst home with her. If anything, we learned that no two pinots are alike — and some are more likeable than others.

Rachel Swan

For retail availability, visit EastBayExpress.com

R&C

Bombay of India 1350 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7684. (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Dragon 3000 1154 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek, 925-944-1688. (Chinese) $-$$

George's Giant Hamburger 1451 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-939-4888. (Diner) $

[illegible] 1535 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek, 925-935-4036. (California Cuisine/Italian/Nuevo Latino) $$

[illegible] 1512 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-952-9898. (Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] 1530 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-932-0000. (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 1710 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek, 925-938-2426. (Deli/Bakery) $

[illegible] 1616 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-297-6119. (Chinese) $$

LAMORINDA

Bo's Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-7133. (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Casa Orinda 20 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-254-2981. (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Chow 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-962-2469. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

La Finestra Ristorante 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 101, Lafayette, 925-284-8282. (Italian) $$-$$$

Kwong's Restaurant 1 Orinda Way, Suite 1, Orinda, 925-253-8852. (Chinese) $

Lily's House 3555 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-1588. (Chinese) $$-$$$

Moraga House Cafe 1012 School St., Moraga, 925-376-5129. (American) $-$$

[illegible] 3531 Plaza Way, Lafayette, 925-284-3331. (Seafood/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

TRI-VALLEY

[illegible] 675 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-417-1224. (Mexican) $$$

[illegible] @ Main 3322 Main St., Sunol, 925-862-0429. (American/Steak House) $-$$$

Bridges Restaurant and Bar 44 Church St., Danville, 925-820-7200. (Asian Fusion/California/Organic) $$$-$$$$

Los Caporales 2150 First St., Livermore, 925-443-4454. (Mexican) $

[illegible] Steakhouse 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. West (in the Danville Livery), Danville, 925-507-0595. (Steak House) $$$$

[illegible] 123 W. Neal St., Pleasanton, 925-600-9200. (Japanese/Steak House) $$$$

[illegible] 4825 Hopyard Rd., Suite F2, Pleasanton, 925-460-3333. (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 105 Town & Country Dr., Suite D, Danville, 925-552-6000. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard 39 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore, 925-449-7000. (Chinese) $$-$$$

FOOD&WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Market Hall Signing comes of *Libation: A Bitter Alchemy*. Fri., Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m., free. Rockridge Market Hall, 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-548-9561.

Fruit Carving Jimmy Thang shows how to make art with fruit on selected Saturdays (call for details). Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, $60. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland, 510-637-0455, OACC.cc.

Lisa Jervis Discussing Cook Food. Thu., Sept. 17, 7 p.m., free. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2220, EcologyCenter.org.

FARMERS' MARKETS

[illegible] Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. For info visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Dec. 26, free. Webster St. at Taylor Ave., Alameda, 510-141-1469.

Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Fresh produce by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-351-8000, ShopBayfair.com.

Brentwood Farmers' Market Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon. Continues through Oct. 31, free. First St., between Oak & Chestnut Sts., Brentwood.

Clayton Farmers' Market Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon. Continues through Oct. 31, free. Diablo St., between Main & Center Sts., Clayton.

Concord Farmers' Market Thursdays, 4-8 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Oct. 29, free. Todos Santos Plaza, Willow Pass Rd. and Grant St., Concord, 925-671-3464.

Danville Certified Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Railroad Ave. & Prospect St., Danville.

Farm Fresh [illegible] Market [illegible] Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in ethnically diverse, low-income neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-548-2220. EcologyCenter.org. San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St. (at Oregon St.), Berkeley, 510-981-5150.

Irvington [illegible] Market Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bay St. at Fremont Blvd., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Antioch Farmers' Market Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Oct. 29, free. Kaiser Antioch, 4501 Sand Creek Rd., Antioch.

Kaiser Permanente Fremont Farmers' Market Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Martinez Farmers' Market Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Permanente Martinez Medical Offices, 200 Muir Rd., Martinez.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Medical Center Union City, 3553 Whipple Rd., Union City.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market With vendors selling seasonal produce on the cafeteria patio. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market With pesticide-free flowers, an organic mushroom, bee products, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, fresh pasta, and seasonal surprises. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Colusa Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

[illegible] Farmers' Market Sponsored and maintained by Oakland's [illegible], a nonprofit that strives to promote awareness, access to healthy food, and the connections between people and our planet. The market produce includes organic produce from [illegible] Organic Farm based out of [illegible], CA, and a youth-led prepared food [illegible] the Purple Lawn Cafe. For more info or to find out how to become involved, please contact Tori at [illegible]@[illegible].org, or call 510-433-1008. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel [illegible] Farmers' Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Livermore Thursday Farmers' Market Main vendors selling locally grown seasonal produce. Thursdays, 4-8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 15, free. Carnegie Park, 3rd & J Sts., Livermore.

Martinez Certified Farmers' Market Main vendors selling fresh products from [illegible] sun-dried fruit, and gourmet Indian or Angus food. For information call 925-228-2172 or visit MartinezMainStreet.org. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Oct. 1, free. Main St. Martinez, 600 Main St., Martinez.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market Organic specialty foods, all-organic, Hayward and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Market featuring vendors with fresh produce, flowers, and crafts for sale. For info visit PCFMA.com. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Nov. 19, free. Court St., Martinez, Farmers Main & Escobar Sts., Martinez.

Pinole Farmers' Market With local produce and vendors selling fresh California-grown produce. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Fernandez Ave. at Pear St., Pinole.

Pittsburg [illegible] Market With produce sellers selling fresh California-grown fruits and vegetables. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Nov. 21, free. Railroad Ave., between 3rd & 4th Sts., Pittsburg.

[illegible] Farmers' Market With Berkeley [illegible] Julia Berkeley Animal House, home to cats and dog adoptions. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Pleasanton Farmers' Market, Main & Angela St. (at First St.), Pleasanton.

Point Livermore Farmers' Market Main vendors selling fresh seasonal produce. Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 28, free. Park Pl., (at Washington Ave.), Richmond.

San Leandro Thursday Farmers' Market Music, cooking demonstrations, great music, fresh-cut flowers, family activities, wine tastings, and gourmet foods. Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 21, free. Parrott St., between E. 14th St. & Washington Ave., San Leandro.

San Leandro Farmers' Market With seasonal produce, flowers and baked goods. Organized by Friends of the Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Nov. 21, free. Hesperian Blvd. at Paseo Grande (San Lorenzo), San Lorenzo.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, flowers, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, between Allston and Center Sts., Berkeley, 510-981-5150.

Temescal Farmers' Market California farmers offer seasonal produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, prepared food and more. Info: 510-745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, flowers, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

Union City Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh seasonal produce and seafood, plus a hotdog and [illegible] Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Old Alvarado/Union Sanders Park, Smith & Watkins St., Union City.

PICK

Dierdre Heekin

Many years spent traveling and sampling the world's best, rarest, and most obscure liquid intoxicants honed winemaker **Dierdre Heekin's** nose and palate. Heekin shares her expertise at her celebrated Vermont restaurant, Osteria Pane e Salute, and in her memoir *Libation: A Bitter Alchemy*. Wine pairs with her Friday, Sept. 18, reading at **Vintage Berkeley-Elmwood** (2949 College Ave., Berkeley). 7:30 p.m., free. VintageBerkeley.com. *— Anneli Rufus*

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THE SPY WHO BORED ME

The Informant! makes tame fun of big business. Enviro-docs *Fuel* and *No Impact Man* play a little rougher.

By Kelly Vance

The Informant! is like the comic flip side to *Michael Clayton*.

There's something fishy about Mark Whitacre. The up-and-coming executive (played by Matt Damon) sports a typical Midwestern corporate look for the early 1990s — bad haircut, mustache, bit of a paunch, clown tie, shapeless suit, etc. — but that's not what bothers us, and at first there's no reason to suspect that this scientist-turned-manager at Archer Daniels Midland, the huge agribusiness conglomerate, has a screw loose. But he does, and Steven Soderbergh's curiously punctuated *The Informant!* provides a smudged window into Mark Whitacre's inner world and also the world of a corporate food leviathan. They are worlds you'll want to escape from as quickly as possible.

While Archer Daniels Midland, aka ADM, goes about its business of genetically modifying the nation's food and fixing the price of lysine with its competitors, Mark is busy worrying there's a saboteur inside the company tinkering with the lysine. Nervous, easily distracted Mark finds it hard to make small talk with the other execs at ADM because his mind is always racing off on tangents — which we hear in voiceover — about neckties, Michael Crichton novels, outlandish Japanese habits, and other trivia. In a risky move for a film based on a true story, Mark turns out to be an unreliable narrator.

By the time he contacts a mystified FBI agent (Scott Bakula) and agrees to wear a wire to help the feds investigate the wrongdoing he tells them is going on at ADM, we've developed serious doubts about Mark, the competence of the FBI, and the food business in general. Mark won't shut up to anyone about anything, and he can't help comparing his predicament with ones he's seen in movies like *The Firm* ("Everything they did to me they did to Tom Cruise"). He makes things up. It's amusing up to a point. Damon portrays preoccupied bureaucrats (*The Good Shepherd*) and delusional misfits (*The Talented Mr. Ripley*) as well as anyone, and the supporting cast is fine, especially Thomas F. Wilson (remember Biff from *Back to the Future*?) as Mark's boss and Melanie Lynskey as Mark's thoroughly conflicted wife, whose pet name for him is "Curly."

Director Soderbergh and screenwriter Scott Z. Burns (adapting Kurt Eichenwald's book) seem to be showing us the comic flip side of *Michael Clayton*. In that film, the evil food megacorp was scarier than God — intimidating hostile witnesses, dispatching assassins, spending millions in hush money — but in *The Informant!* everyone runs around in a daffy sitcom daze, cued to 1960s graphics and game-show-style music. Instead of a nail-biter like *The Insider* or the pathetic tale of a corporate hit and run victim such as *Flash of Genius*, Mark's big-business shenanigans simply peter out anticlimactically over the course of six or seven years, and that's that. He's not a lone whistleblower; he's a solitary fruitcake.

The Informant! is not one of Participant Media's (formerly Participant Productions) finest hours, compared to *Syriana*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, or *The Kite Runner*. Nor is it much help in deciphering the career of Soderbergh, once a critical darling, now better known as the creator of politically intriguing concepts that fail to connect coherently, à la *The Good German* or *Che* or *The Girlfriend Experience*. But he and George Clooney will keep trying, no doubt.

The Informant!
Directed by Steven Soderbergh. With Matt Damon, Scott Bakula, and Joel McHale. Opens Friday.

Fuel
Directed by Joshua Tickell. Opens Friday.

No Impact Man
Directed by Laura Gabbert and Justin Schein. Opens Friday.

Would Mark Whitacre's crazy crusade against "corruption" have made more sense as a documentary? Ask the makers of *Fuel* and *No Impact Man*, the latest in 2009's string of pro-Earth, pro-organic, anticorporate docs. Either one is more worthy of your time.

Joshua Tickell and Colin Beavan want us to believe they're two ordinary guys who, darn it, just got so fed up with America's wasteful ways they decided to make documentaries about their efforts to help save the planet. Well, why not? A couple more enviro documentaries couldn't hurt, and neither Tickell's *Fuel* nor *No Impact Man*, directed by Laura Gabbert and Justin Schein and coproduced by author Beavan, is much of an affront to enviros or people who take film seriously.

Both docs are of the Michael Moore-Morgan Spurlock school — skillfully edited one-man shows that counterbalance nominally entertaining stunts with a lofty concept no one can argue against without appearing insane. In *Fuel*, the nut bite comes from none other than George W. Bush, who as president solemnly declares "America is addicted to oil." *No Impact Man* carries that warning a bit further. Its concept: America has so many unnecessary, harmful habits that the best remedy is to tear the average consumer lifestyle down to its bare essentials in order to leave the smallest possible footprint on the battered landscape.

Fuel is the more watchable of the two, but *No Impact Man* lingers in the mind longer, despite Beavan's initially annoying antics. For one year beginning in November 2006, New York City author Beavan, along with his wife and toddler daughter, decided to radically alter their way of life by "taking themselves off the grid": canceling newspaper and magazine subscriptions, forgoing most transportation that was not self-powered, eating and drinking only fresh unprocessed food and drinks from local farmers markets, forsaking harmful cleaning products, throwing away their TV, composting whatever waste they produced, and eventually cutting off their Manhattan apartment's electricity entirely. Of course, before setting out on this experiment Beavan made a book deal, set up a blog, and arranged the production of this movie, in which he and his family get followed around by a film crew. He was a busy little pre-Industrial-Revolution beaver. To find a national news outlet that hadn't profiled him was difficult.

As with Spurlock and occasionally Moore, we grow weary of Beavan midway through the stunt. Because he's in NYC he's a media celeb; if he did it in Kansas he'd be labeled a survivalist weirdo. His wife, Michelle Conlin, is a better story — writer for *Business Week*, Starbucks junkie (remember: no caffeine or alcohol for a year), devotee of reality TV shows, etc. When the lightbulb finally switches on in her head, we know the family and the experiment are all going to work out just fine because she's the one it needs to really convince.

The well-produced, borderline-whimsical *Fuel*, starring Tickell's biofuel-powered Veggie Van, tells us things we already know about our overreliance on fossil fuels and the catastrophic effects. It also connects certain dots for us one more time, when one talking head explains what happened when the oil-soaked US national debt began to balloon out of control: You pick up a gun and go rob a service station. That's the War on Terror. ●

Feedback@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

Amreeka [illegible] drama based on the misadventures of Muna, a Palestinian mother (Nisreen Faour), and her teenage son Fadi (Melkar Muallem), as they migrate from the West Bank to a small Illinois town, [illegible] a better life and finding one that's merely different. Writer-director Cherien Dabis — herself a Palestinian immigrant in the US — puts a full load of [illegible] situations into Muna and Fadi's story [illegible] (96 min.) (K.V.)

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs A [illegible]

[illegible] storytelling, and dazzling visual [illegible], this computer-generated kid flick concerns a nerdy young inventor (voiced by Bill Hader) who accidentally [illegible] technology that [illegible]. [illegible] (J.J.)

Fuel From behind the wheel of his biofuel-powered Veggie Van [illegible] documentarian Joshua Tickell takes us down a familiar road, pointing out the failings of the "military-[illegible]"

Showtimes Online
Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

[illegible] while showing how [illegible] are finding sustainable-fuel [illegible] in Germany, Sweden, and Las Vegas. [illegible] In the 1930s [illegible] by oil companies in order to [illegible] (K.V.) [illegible]

The Informant! [illegible] director Steven Soderbergh and actor Matt Damon [illegible] (K.V.)

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule review. **AL** = Albany. **AZC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex. **BC** = Brenden Concord. **BH** = Blackhawk. **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg. **BS** = Bay Street. **CA** = California. [illegible] = CineArts Pleasant Hill. [illegible] = Century Pleasant Hill. **CG** = Century Hilltop. [illegible] = Cinedome Newark. **CNC** = Cine Cannon? **CSC** = Chabot Square and Veneer? [illegible] = Century Union City. **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek. **DV** = Deer Valley. **GL** = Grand Lake. **JL** = Jack London. **LP** = La Paz? [illegible] = Oaks. [illegible] = Orinda. [illegible] = Piedmont. **RA** = Regal Antioch. **RCC** = Rialto Cinemas Cerrito. **RCE** = Rialto Cinemas Elmwood. **RH** = Regal Hacienda. **RT** = Rheem Theater. **S** = Shattuck. **UAB** = UA Berkeley. **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay. **V** = Vine. **WWC** = West Wind [illegible]

story book on the goofball foibles of a Michael Clayton. Her inside look at Midwestern square suffers and nervous tics. Damon doesn't know what the hell to do with it. The story [illegible] playing by Melanie Lynskey, Thaddeus [illegible] and Scott Bakula is largely wasted (108 min.) (K.V.) CWC CT DTPH CN RH CCC BL IA RCE

Jennifer's Body This small-town high-school sexpot (played by 23-year-old Megan Fox) undergoes a bad experience one night and turns into an [illegible]-spewing demon who [illegible] and devours teenage boys. No, wait a minute. That [illegible] was written by Diablo Cody of Juno fame so the [illegible] are already in place for [illegible] and her mousy best friend Needy (Amanda Seyfried), the one we're really supposed to pay attention to. [illegible] despite the title. It's really more of a female empowerment yarn than a horror flick, anyway. But it has a definite Carrie vibe. If Stephen King had been a woman who won an Oscar for her first produced screenplay, he would have [illegible] up something like this. Fine scene-setting by director Karyn Kusama and crew. Also with Johnny Simmons and the ubiquitous J.K. Simmons (as teacher) (102 min.) (K.V.) SCC

Love Happens [illegible] and Aaron Eckhart (The Dark Knight's Harvey Dent) star as the lead couple in this romantic drama about a [illegible] self-help author who unexpectedly meets the one woman who might be able to help him help himself. Directed and co-written by Brandon Camp. CWC CT DTPH CN RH CCC CRC RA IL

My One and Only The glamorous and [illegible] (Renee Zellweger) leaves her husband Dan (Kevin Bacon) behind and hits the road with her teenage sons in search of a [illegible]. Set on the East Coast in the 1950s, directed by Richard Loncraine (108 min.) (J.S.) CRC V

No Impact Man New York author Colin Beavan orchestrated a campaign to [illegible] himself, along with his wife and toddler daughter, into a book-movie-blog deal about how they "went off the grid" by giving up such "essentials" as TV, coffee, processed food, and even electricity, in order to [illegible] the average consumer lifestyle down to its bare essentials and thus leave the smallest [illegible] footprint on the Earth. Or some such. This documentary, directed [illegible] by Laura Gabbert and Justin Schein, shows how that went. Never mind that they only shut off their Con Ed power for a few months [illegible] — the real [illegible] in the [illegible] of his wife Michelle Conlin, an [illegible] who becomes the moral center of this [illegible] vignette. [illegible] but approach (92 min.) (K.V.) S

Whiteout The sun is about to set in Antarctica for six months — and U.S. Marshal Carrie Stetko (Kate Beckinsale), the only law enforcement in the area, is on the case of a ruthless killer. Directed by Dominic Sena (Gone in Sixty Seconds) (95 min.) ABC BE BF CWC CO CCPH CB CUC CHY CR RH CCC CN CRC RA RH L SHER NWS

Anna Wintour in The September Issue

ONGOING

(500) Days of Summer This Marc Webb-directed [illegible] the romantic comedy genre on its head. Joseph Gordon-Levitt plays Tom Hansen, a hopeless dreamer so convinced of [illegible] love that he falls head over heels with the aloof Summer Finn (Zooey Deschanel) despite the fact that she explicitly warns him she's not interested in a relationship. Structurally inventive in so many [illegible] ways, Tom and Summer's story shifts back and forth over the course of their romance, its highs, its lulls, its collapse. The [illegible] ourselves about love are, it turns out, every bit as dangerous as true emotion. The [illegible] of all this is a [illegible] roller-coaster ride that feels greater even in its [illegible] (95 min.) (C.H.) BR, CWC, CUC, CAPR, CR, PM, RH

9 Under the watchful eye of Tim Burton, Timur Bekmambetov, Shane Acker's race of zippered-burlap-bag men negotiate the familiar post-apocalyptic terrain, [illegible] monsters, [illegible] everywhere in search of a secret that unlocks humanity's legacy. You get the picture. Acker's [illegible] (screenplay by Pamela Pettler from Acker's story) make the a short that's been [illegible]. Featuring the voices of Elijah Wood, Jennifer Connelly and Christopher Plummer (79 min.) (K.V.) BC, BF, CWC, CN, CC, RA, RH, SHER, NWS

A Woman in Berlin Like a tragedy out of the book Against Our Will, writer-director Max Färberböck's historical shocker about us to find the brutality of German women being raped by victorious Russian

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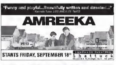
"Funny and playful...Beautifully written and directed..." Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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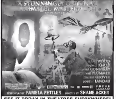
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The Baader Meinhof Complex

LANDMARK THEATRES Shattuck

soldiers in the rubble of [illegible] the town of [illegible] — In this once through the eyes of a [illegible] [illegible] (played by [illegible]). But after a few [illegible] and accompanying humiliations, [illegible] the message [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] for all the wrong reasons [illegible]. The film's one-note [illegible] [illegible] too much of it [illegible]. It [illegible]. Also with [illegible] (120 min.) (K,Y) RCE

Adam Mostly on the strength of his puzzling premise, writer-director Max Mayer's Manhattan-set tale of a young man suffering from Asperger's syndrome (English actor Hugh Dancy) finding love with a [illegible] woman in his apartment (comely [illegible] Australian Rose Byrne) [illegible]. [illegible] Even the [illegible] Beth's [illegible] (Peter Gallagher) and his [illegible] can't [illegible] from the filmmaker's [illegible]. [illegible] Frankie Faison as [illegible] and Amy Irving as Beth's [illegible]. [illegible] (99 min.) (K,Y) CPH, V

All About Steve Packaged as a [illegible] comedy but [illegible] of comedy or romance, this [illegible] stars Sandra Bullock as a [illegible] constructor of crossword puzzles for a Sacramento [illegible]. Socially [illegible] her [illegible] her huge vocabulary, she falls hard for cable news cameraman [illegible] Cooper (The Hangover) after a single, disastrous blind date, then [illegible] him [illegible] as he moves from one [illegible] story to the next. Director Phil Traill and screenwriter Kim Barker [illegible] [illegible] how and [illegible] (1:3) [illegible]

The Baader Meinhof Complex Escaping to its violent [illegible], filmmaker Uli Edel's [illegible] account of the careers of journalist-turned-radical [illegible] (Martina Gedeck), [illegible] revolutionary Andreas Baader (Moritz Bleibtreu), [illegible] (Johanna Wokalek) and their urban-terrorist [illegible] against the West German government in the 1970s. [illegible] (150 min.) (K,Y) S

Cloud 9 After thirty years of marriage, Inge (Ursula Werner) enters into an affair with Karl (Horst Westphal) and rediscovers her libido (98 min.) [illegible]

Cosmic Voyage Morgan Freeman explains the cosmic [illegible] in a 45-min IMAX [illegible] CSC

Dinosaurs Alive! From the Triassic to the Cretaceous, dinosaurs are uncovered by paleontologists and [illegible] in [illegible]. [illegible] CSC

District 9 Set in South Africa? A gigantic [illegible] [illegible] over [illegible] the [illegible] Johannesburg for twenty years, [illegible] [illegible] come down to earth and inhabit [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] concerned with the rebellious [illegible] who [illegible] with gangsters and [illegible] [illegible] for Wikus van de Merwe (played by actor Sharlto Copley), a [illegible] assigned to [illegible] from the [illegible]. Blomkamp and producer Peter Jackson [illegible] [illegible] just [illegible] (112 min.) (K,Y) ATC, [illegible] CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, [illegible]

Extract [illegible] with the [illegible] of [illegible] Mike Judge (Office Space & [illegible]-Head, King of the Hill) [illegible] [illegible] Joel (Jason Bateman) [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Ben Affleck, and Gene Simmons as [illegible] (91 min.) (K,Y) ATC, [illegible] CEPH, CH, [illegible]

The Final Destination If you haven't seen a Final Destination movie before the [illegible] [illegible] consequently eliminated one by one via gruesome [illegible] [illegible] The Final Destination, the fourth in the [illegible] [illegible] of doomed twenty-somethings [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] up at a NASCAR race when [illegible] (In [illegible] 3D), only to [illegible] the new [illegible] [illegible] ways. Even the 3D [illegible]. Then again, [illegible] The Final Destination [illegible] (80 min.) (C,H) [illegible] CUC, CH, [illegible]

Forces of Nature Learn [illegible] causes of earthquakes, volcanoes, tornadoes, and hurricanes and be awed by their effects on [illegible] in National Geographic's [illegible] IMAX [illegible] offering. CSC

G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra A [illegible] by [illegible] Stephen Sommers (The Mummy) to [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] they imagined [illegible] Joe and Cobra [illegible]. Unfortunately, [illegible] of dialogue sounds like something a [illegible] would improvise while playing with [illegible] toys, such as "Deploy the sharks!" [illegible] trying to [illegible] and [illegible] as [illegible]. But that's not the point, is it? It's to [illegible] childhood [illegible] with a lot of [illegible]. [illegible] G.I. Joe makes [illegible] more sense and is much more entertaining than any Transformers movie. [illegible] (118 min.) (C,H) [illegible] CUC, [illegible]

Gamer [illegible] Gerard Butler [illegible] as Kable, the [illegible] of a [illegible] [illegible]

about [illegible] the fact that it's [illegible] (Channing Tatum) [illegible] as the corporate and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and Logan Lerman [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. (It's not [illegible]) [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] The [illegible] (95 min.) (C,H) [illegible] CB, CEPH, [illegible] CUC, CH, [illegible]

Halloween II Two years ago, writer-director Rob Zombie [illegible] the [illegible] franchise by giving [illegible] serial killer [illegible] Myers a tragic origin. With [illegible] Halloween II, Zombie takes everything he accomplished, wipes his [illegible] with it, then flings the Halloween dripping product at you as if to say "Fooled you, I'm [illegible] for the paycheck, [illegible]." This is not an exaggeration. You'll feel that dirty [illegible] Scout [illegible] Laurie Strode (Myers' long-lost sister in Zombie's [illegible]) as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] (101 min.) (C,H) [illegible] CB, CEPH, CH, [illegible]

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince The sixth, seemingly "[illegible]" adaptation of J.K. Rowling's outlandishly popular [illegible] [illegible]

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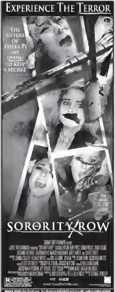

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Typically each screening consists of short films, followed by a feature film.

** Schedule subject to change*

TNURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

OAKLAND SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

12:00pm – 3:00pm
Filmmakers talk / Press Conference
3:30pm – 6:30pm
Reception

GRAND LAKE THEATER

7:00pm – 9:00pm
The Sealed Letter
Manuel Practico Del Amigo Imaginario
Soundtrack For A Revolution
9:30pm – 11:30pm
Leg Before Wicket
Still Bill

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

MERRITT COLLEGE

12:00pm – 5:00pm
WORKSHOPS / PANELS
- The Idea: Writers Discuss the Formula For their Madness
- Putting the Deal Together
- Finding Finance for your Production
- Actor's Boot Camp
- Music and the Film Business
- The World of Animation

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

OAKLAND SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

7:00pm – 9:00pm
The Assistants
The New American Soldier
9:00pm – 11:00pm
Going on 13
Life Outside the Pearl

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

MAXWELL'S LOUNGE

6:00pm – 9:00pm
Saints Rising
Soundtrack for Revolution
9:00pm – 11:30pm
Rivers of Renewal
Life Outside the Pearl

UPTOWN NIGHTCLUB

7:00pm – 9:00pm
Faith: An American Renaissance
Operation Small Push
9:00pm – 11:00pm
Priest Calling
The Assistants

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

JACK LONDON THEATER #1

5:00pm – 7:00pm
Going on 13
The Assistants
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Race to the Bottom
Soundtrack for a Revolution
9:00pm – 11:00pm
Through the Walls
Sabar

JACK LONDON THEATER #2

5:00pm – 7:00pm
Leg Before Wicket
A Day Late in Oakland
Never Again
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Everyday Black Man
The Sealed Letter
Manuel Practico Del Amigo Imaginario
9:00pm – 11:00pm
Buried at Earthskin
Saints Rising
The Sealed Letter

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

MERRITT COLLEGE

12:00pm – 2:00pm
Conversations with Filmmakers workshops and panels
2:30pm – 4:30pm
Sabar
Imagine Peace
A Day Late in Oakland
5:00pm – 7:15pm
Maya of the Quiet Strength
The Mating game
Grass
Saints Rising
7:30pm – 9:30pm
Fiona's Script
Never again
9:35pm – 11:00pm
Through the Walls
Get Screened Oakland
La Torreta
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JACK LONDON THEATER #1

5:00pm – 6:30pm
Oakland Music Videos
Q & A with filmmakers in the music video industry
6:30pm – 9:00pm
Life Outside the Pearl
The Street Children of Kinshasa
Operation Small Push
9:00pm – 11:00pm
Imagine Peace
The Quiet Arrangement

JACK LONDON THEATER #2

5:00pm – 7:00pm
Still Bill
What if?
7:30pm – 10:00pm
The Sealed Letter
Townbiz
The Servant of the Blues
10:15pm – 11:30pm
Priest Calling
The Mating Game
Race to the Bottom

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14

MERRITT COLLEGE

12:00pm – 2:00pm
Conversations with Filmmakers workshop and panel
2:00pm – 5:00pm
Rythmic Uprising
Race to the Bottom
Heart to Heart
Manuel Practico Del Amigo Imaginario

GRAND LAKE THEATER

6:00pm – 8:30pm
Partly Cloudy
UP
Introduction of the film by Jonas Rivera, Producer of Up
Q&A with Jonas Rivera
8:30pm – 11:00pm
Youth Uprising Hip Hop
Sabar

Closing Party Location to be announced

Don't miss the complete OIFF program guide in the October 7 issue of the *East Bay Express*.

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Mary J. Blige in *I Can Do Bad All By Myself*

MT

wealthy man [illegible] Basis adolescent Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) back to Hogwarts, using the mysterious, anonymous prince's potion book to help his grades, get [illegible] and, in his spare time, fending off the [illegible] evil [illegible]. Direction (by [illegible] David Yates), art [illegible] (Andrew Ackland-Snow), and character [illegible] — Michael Gambon, [illegible] Jim Broadbent, David Thewlis, Maggie Smith, Robbie Coltrane — are up to the usual high standards, but [illegible] the Dark Side has all the fun. Also [illegible] Felton, Helena Bonham Carter, Timothy Spall, and Hero Fiennes-Tiffin. [illegible] several [illegible] visual set pieces. It's [illegible] the [illegible] of the magic has gone out of the [illegible]. Screenplay [illegible] by [illegible] (PG) [illegible]

The Human Body Ever wonder how your body does what it does without your having to tell it to? Find out in this fascinating trip through (you guessed it) the human body. Watch a [illegible] journey [illegible] cells dancing to music, and a 250-mph [illegible]. CSC

The Hurt Locker Kathryn Bigelow's heart-stopping Iraq war drama [illegible] a U.S. Army bomb squad around [illegible] Iraq, a job that places the men in potentially deadly [illegible] a dozen times a day. After the squad's explosives expert is killed [illegible] he's replaced by a [illegible] cowboy (Jeremy Renner) [illegible] (Anthony Mackie, Brian Geraghty). He's a true warrior, but Bigelow [illegible] and [illegible] of [illegible], as one of the other [illegible] points [illegible] he doesn't mind endangering them to get his daily [illegible]. The star has already produced [illegible] (*The Lucky Ones*, *In the Valley of Elah*), but this is the first to [illegible] with the controversy surrounding the invasion and [illegible] on the [illegible] subject of men in [illegible]. It's the best [illegible] since *Full Metal Jacket*. With Ralph Fiennes and David Morse (131 min.) [illegible]

I Can Do Bad All By Myself After getting caught looting a home, three siblings are sent to live with their Aunt April, a hard-drinking nightclub singer who wants nothing to do with them. But [illegible] houseguest helps April reorder her [illegible] and learn a valuable lesson in [illegible]. Written and directed by Tyler Perry. [illegible]

In the Loop Hilarious, brutally [illegible] UK-produced [illegible] makes fun of [illegible] and [illegible] government and military flunkies in the run-up to an unspecified war [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] invasion of Iraq in 2003. The chief target of TV producer Armando Iannucci (*The Thick of It*) and his team of four [illegible] is the [illegible] to career bureaucrats on both sides of the Atlantic who really only care about saving their careers [illegible] the collateral damage to Iraq is secondary. Terrific tantrums and shocking, awful [illegible] by actors Peter Capaldi, Tom [illegible], James Gandolfini, Gina McKee, Chris Addison, Anna Chlumsky, David [illegible] and the [illegible] of [illegible] cabal of [illegible]. The payoff is [illegible]

with [illegible] of [illegible]. Should [illegible] along with Dr. [illegible] (116 min.) [illegible]

Inglourious Basterds Quentin Tarantino does the same thing to World War II [illegible] he did to Los Angeles, Japan, and the Mexican borderlands — he [illegible] it to suit his purposes. [illegible] purposes are worth watching, although the multi-layered story of a murderous German SS colonel ([illegible] memorable Christoph Waltz), a scalp-hunting US Army lieutenant (Brad Pitt), a vengeance-seeking Jewish Frenchwoman ([illegible] Laurent), a squad of [illegible] Jewish-American GIs, and various long-winded Nazi [illegible] a few too many layers. At an [illegible] two-and-a-half hours Tarantino's [illegible]

[illegible] in and out of comprehensibility. Still, we [illegible] a Hollywood [illegible] [illegible] his Basterds [illegible] through long [illegible] dialogue scenes [illegible] probably rather watch Pitt, along [illegible] with the [illegible] in a concentration camp. Also with Eli Roth, Daniel Brühl, Diane Kruger, and August Diehl. A white elephant supreme (153 min.) [illegible]

It Might Get Loud [illegible] Davis Guggenheim, maker of *An Inconvenient Truth*, hit upon the happy idea of inviting three rock guitarists from different generations — Jack White of the White Stripes and other [illegible] The Edge of U2, and Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin — to jam together and [illegible] their romance with the axe. They all get along just fine. Not surprisingly White turns out of be the wild card, a Detroit kid who can rig a [illegible] guitar out of a bottle, a two-by-four, some wire, and a cheap amp. Their unplugged [illegible] of the Band's "The Weight" is worth the price of admission (97 min.) [illegible]

Julie & Julia Meryl Streep comically chomps and whistles her way through the memoirs of Paris as [illegible] with Julia Child on a [illegible] to make classical French cuisine popular in 1950s America. The weaker half of Nora Ephron's [illegible] [illegible] contemporary blogger Julie Powell (Amy Adams) paying tribute to Child by [illegible] every one of her recipes [illegible]. Streep looks as if she's having fun, but Adams' girl-next-door [illegible] signs of wear and tear. The film's [illegible] Stanley Tucci as Child's husband [illegible] the [illegible] concepts of "Julia Child" and "[illegible]." The [illegible] high-calorie screenplay is by writer-director Ephron, [illegible] by Child and Powell. Has buttery [illegible] (123 min.) [illegible]

Kambakkht Ishq [illegible] Powell and [illegible] Proud to be an Indian [illegible] this Bollywood drama featuring [illegible] Khan, Kareena Kapoor, [illegible] in Hindi with English subtitles. NB

The Living Sea You've seen *Finding Nemo*; now see the real thing. It's a trip to the bottom of the ocean, narrated by Meryl Streep, with [illegible] and music by Sting. CSC

Love Aaj Kal Two characters, one from the [illegible] and one from the past, pursue parallel paths to [illegible] love. With Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone, and [illegible] Kapoor. In Hindi with English subtitles. NB

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a [illegible] of [illegible] reveal the [illegible], legends, history and most importantly, [illegible] of ancient Egyptian civilization. CSC

Ponyo (Gake no ue no Ponyo) Trapped by [illegible] [illegible] near the [illegible] of [illegible] is rescued by a [illegible] five-year-old boy named Sosuke, who gives her the name Ponyo. They become [illegible] and together embark on a [illegible] journey to [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] — in [illegible] Hayao Miyazaki's [illegible] (but not overbearing) [illegible] possibly [illegible] a kids' story for all ages. Very much in the spirit of Miyazaki's ecologically [illegible] particularly *Princess Mononoke*. The [illegible] voice [illegible] the English version [illegible] Cate Blanchett, Liam Neeson, Matt Damon, Tina Fey, Frankie Jonas [illegible] and [illegible] as Ponyo. Recommended (100 min.) [illegible]

The September Issue We peek into the New York [illegible] of *Vogue* magazine [illegible] of the [illegible] Anna Wintour, [illegible] model and [illegible] of the mag, who functions as a [illegible] of fashion [illegible] It's fun to [illegible] her work, especially with the [illegible] of her [illegible] and David [illegible], Grace Coddington, [illegible] our own. Everyone else (cf. *The Devil Wears Prada*) is the [illegible] other than agreement. Is high fashion [illegible]? Filmmaker R.J. Cutler's documentary profile of [illegible] and [illegible] that question directly [illegible] and it's how TV [illegible] and [illegible] Cutler (*The War Room*) got his access. That's the [illegible] Even the [illegible] girls [illegible] [illegible] (90 min.) [illegible]

Shorts Writer-director [illegible] Rodriguez is truly a kid at heart, as evidenced by his repeated forays into children's movies, like the *Spy Kids* series and *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl*. His [illegible] imagination [illegible] *Shorts*, so [illegible] because of the [illegible] of vignettes featuring the kids of Black Falls, Texas, and their [illegible] with a rainbow-colored stone that [illegible] The [illegible] bright characters, [illegible] and [illegible] and a [illegible] lot of [illegible] fun for the [illegible] family. *Shorts* won't turn into a [illegible], but your elementary kids will have a blast (89 min.) [illegible]

Sorority Row It's not all fun and games on sorority row, when a group of sorority sisters is [illegible] by a serial killer after trying to cover up the [illegible] death of [illegible] (101 min.) [illegible]

Still Walking Subdued and affecting Japanese [illegible] you on [illegible] with the offspring of a small-town doctor and his wife as they gather over a [illegible] weekend gathering in honor of their [illegible] son. Writer-director Hirokazu Kore-eda (*Nobody Knows*, *After Life*)

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tenuous years of screenwriter and anguish out of his characters in dialogue, especially from the second son (played by Robert Abel) and his wife (Yui Natsukawa), and Yuu the neglectful mother [illegible] plays the doctor's [illegible] [illegible] daughter. Gentle [illegible] [illegible] emotions. (114 min.) (PLY) S

Taking Woodstock On the verge of the much-discussed 1969 Woodstock rock meeting, a young man named Elliot Tiechberg (Demetri Martin) helps his energetic parents turn their failing motel into rock-fest headquarters USA, and also turns his own life [illegible] in the perceptive, seductive [illegible] by director Ang Lee and screenwriter James Schamus, the team who gave us *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Brokeback Mountain*. Every single acting role is a polished jewel, but [illegible] mention to [illegible] as Elliot's high-powered, old-country [illegible] [illegible] Schreiber as a body [illegible] [illegible] and Emile Hirsch as a flashback-plagued [illegible]. It's all about living in the moment and connecting with people, and it's a screenwriter to stand with the best work of Frank Capra, Preston Sturges, and Robert Altman. (110 min.) (K.Y.) BE, CWC, CE, CUC, CHY, CAPH, [illegible] CA, PM

The Time Traveler's Wife Fans of Audrey Niffenegger's best-selling romantic fantasy have been waiting six years for the screen adaptation to get made, which proves that time's pretty [illegible] after all. Eric Bana plays a man whose genetic disorder causes him to zip back and forth in time. Rachel McAdams is the woman who falls in love with him as a little girl and eventually finds her life governed by events that haven't yet happened. Most time-travel stories turn on the device of characters [illegible] up the [illegible] and [illegible] realities, or [illegible] the time [illegible] can't change anything, which shifts the [illegible] much more to patterns, adjustment, and the [illegible] of fate. Screenwriter Bruce Joel Rubin was on firmer [illegible] with *Ghost* (1990): a pleasant, moderately thoughtful [illegible] that [illegible]. Robert Schwentke directed. (107 min.) (K.Y.) BE, BP, CWC, [illegible], CPH, CH, DUC, CHY, CUC, DTC, [illegible], RH

Yeb Mera India A dramatic examination of the real stories behind TV news headlines in [illegible] [illegible] and directed by N. Chandra [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in Hindi with English subtitles. NR

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ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17

The Wild Child (85 min. 1969) Plus a discus-sion led by Roger [illegible]: What's a Movie (?) Considering the College Experience Through Film (PFA, 7:00)

She Played with Fire (88 min. 1957) Tea and Larceny: Classic British Crime Films (PFA, 8:50)

Yours [illegible] Tour 15th Anniversary Celebration (120 min. 2009) (BE, CUC, CRPM, CWC, CHY, RH, 8:00)

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18

Eldridge Zmadon: Black Stories (72 min. 1996) Top Bill: The Films of [illegible] (PFA, 6:30)

The Goonies (114 min. 1985) Cult Classics Attack 4 (PM, midnight)

The Birds (119 min. 1963) Actress Tippi Hedren in person (BR, 8:00)

[illegible]'s Street Children Follow by question and answer panel. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, Berkeley (7:30)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Mr. Freedom (92 min. 1968) Preceded by Broadway by Light (10 min. 1958) Top Bill: The Films of William Klein (PFA, 6:30)

Brighton Rock (92 min. 1947) Tea and Larceny: Classic British Crime Films (PFA, 8:30)

The Goonies (114 min. 1985) Cult Classics Attack 4 (PM, midnight)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Feminine vs. Masculine (total running time 86 min. 2001-03) Gender Border: Films and Videos from the Cinémathèque de Tanger Archives (PFA, 3:00)

The Long Haul (88 min. 1957) Tea and Larceny: Classic British Crime Films (PFA, 5:00)

The Goonies (114 min. 1985) Cult Classics Attack 4 (PM, 10:00 a.m.)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Look Through the Window: The Films of Gour Kennedy (total running time 64 min. 2000-09) Chris Kennedy in person. Alternative Visions (PFA, 7:30)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23

Hatsu Yume and Street Works (total running time 15 min. 1991-2011) Metaphysical Medium: The Video Works of Bill Viola (PFA, 7:00)

Guantanamera (101 min. 1995) Cine Cubano: Film Festival (LP, 7:30)

Reel Work Film Tour (Pyramid Alehouse, Walnut Creek, 8:00)

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WHY? GO?

Yoni Wolf abandons the East Bay, leaving the chilly *Eskimo Snow*

By David Downs

Josiah Wolf, Yoni Wolf, and Doug McDiarmid of WHY?

Photo: Kirkland

WHY? frontman Yoni Wolf has broken up with the East Bay after an eight-year relationship, leaving behind an empty apartment and September 22 Anticon release *Eskimo Snow* — a delightful downer LP from the experimental Oakland imprint.

"I'm definitely going to miss the city by the bay. I love it here, man," says the charming, dark-haired, and mustached thirtyish Wolf. It's late July and he's just back from touring Europe and Israel, delirious from jetlag. He sublets his apartment when he tours, and it has become too much of a pain.

"I'm sick of this place, man. It's an auto row and it's just like car dealerships everywhere," Wolf says as he walks down Oakland's Broadway amid the wreckage of the auto industry. "If I could live anywhere in the fucking world it would probably be in one of those really nice Berkeley Hills situations up there or somewhere thereabouts."

Wolf has a ways to go before he gets to the Berkeley Hills. The wayward son of a Messianic Jewish preacher has defied commercialization since he moved to the Bay Area from the Midwest in 2001. He had followed college buddy Adam "Doseone" Drucker, who founded Anticon in 1999 and released WHY?'s debut 2003 LP *Oaklandazulasylum*. For the 2005 follow-up, *Elephant Eyelash*, Wolf's one-man bedroom band grew to include brother and drummer Josiah Wolf and pianist Doug McDiarmid. Amid world touring, the trio recorded two seven-inch discs, then, during a winter in WHY?'s native Cincinnati, Ohio — 2008's *Alopecia*. *Eskimo Snow* is actually 68 minutes of troubled recordings from those 2007 *Alopecia* sessions.

"Right after we recorded it, I had gone and mixed it before *Alopecia* with the infamous slash famous Mark Nevers [engineer for Lambchop, Calexico, Silver Jews] and spent two and a half weeks in confusion there in Nashville. I had no perspective on the stuff — we just recorded it. I flew down there by myself. I just met Mark and I didn't know what I was getting into — Is this good, is this not good? — I felt like I just wanted to keep doing something to it. It needed another layer."

So Wolf sat on it, worrying it like a bone for months and months, releasing *Alopecia* and touring.

"I worked on this record forever and I just needed a deadline, someone to just tell me 'Okay, this needs to be done by this time,' because you can always keep working on something forever. It's also money, too. Already the label's a little hesitant to have me remix it. We already paid for it to be mixed once. We're not a big label. And again we are in the middle of this [recession], and there's not a lot of money running around."

Maybe a little too honest from the jet lag, Wolf admits, "I can't listen to it. I don't know how to listen to it. I don't know if it's good or not. I remember when I was in kindergarten and I did this drawing with crayons or whatever and I couldn't stop working on it. All the kids went to recess. I stayed the whole time working on this drawing and I was just crying 'cause I couldn't get it right and then the teacher came in and told me I had to go to lunch."

He shouldn't stress. WHY? continues to serve up jagged and crumbling pop songs from the opening blasts of Wolf's cracked, charismatic voice. *Eskimo Snow* has a swing that comes from recording all the members playing simultaneously, instead of the modern practice of recording one at a time with audio-manipulating tools.

"Into the Shadows of My Embrace" starts as a three-part Motown ballad and culminates in a lashing indie rock crescendo as Wolf sings, "I wish *I could feel close to somebody* / but *I don't feel nothin'/Now they say I need to quit doin' all this random fffffffff!*"

"I was hooking up with young girls and stuff," the single Wolf concedes. "I was kind of weird about it, feeling guilty about it."

Each song contains some type of pathetic pop confession. In standout track "Against Me," Wolf admits, "*I'm ashamed of sleep/I lie when a phone call wakes me.*" He understands that *saying all this in public should make me feel funny* but gambles and wins on the bet that you got to yell *something that you'd never tell nobody*.

It's unflinching and raw, with evanescent little hooks galloping through his dense rhymes. "What I'm writing now, a lot of it is puzzle stuff. A lot of interlocking rhyme scheme shit and exercises and stuff that I've just been kind of having fun with. A lot of times I'll have a line where every single word rhymes with every single word in the next line."

It's the kind of detail that creates fans for life, just not enough for a Berkeley chateau — yet. "The only way to make money is touring," he says. "[Israel] was off the hinges. We got the star-goddamned treatment, better than ever. Four-star hotel on the beach on the Mediterranean, they paid for everything and took us out. Seven hundred and fifty people at the show all singing along, our first time there. It was fucking weird."

Compared to his Oaktown crash pad: "It was surreal."

In August, Wolf sold off all of his West Coast possessions in a garage sale and packed what was left into a borrowed car for a cross-country road trip to Ohio with his ex-girlfriend. "I'm just trying to get rid of any of my sentimentality and just let it all go. And just start fresh on something. I don't know."

On September 24, WHY? starts two months of touring behind *Eskimo Snow*, pulling into the Great American Music Hall on October 17. After that, who knows? Homelessness. With members of Anticon as well as some family here, part of him will always pine for the bay. ●

Feedback@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details
WHY? plays the Great American Music Hall (859 O'Farrell St., San Francisco) on Oct. 17, 9 p.m., $16. GAMH.com

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CD REVIEWS

TIMELESS SOUNDS

Unadorned Americana, polyrhythmic tribute, and acoustic-guitar shredding.

The Bottle Rockets

Lean Forward

Maybe the reason the Bottle Rockets haven't achieved greater renown during their sixteen-year career is that they've been identified with the alt-country scene, which doesn't seem to be marketable in the usual sense. But Missouri's Bottle Rockets aren't really a roots-rock band in the manner of Son Volt or Whiskeytown. There's some twang in the Rockets' approach but little in the way of country or even country-rock influence. There's much more of the rough-and-tumble, blues rock inspired sound of Lynyrd Skynyrd and Bad Company.

The band's 10th album *Lean Forward* is a fine distillation and summation of the band's strengths — songs are unadorned slices of middle-American life: terse, lean, and memorable melodies, plenty of snappish crunch in the guitar sound, and singing rich with a lazy drawl that seems to recall a million past keg parties. The jaunty "Done It All" explores that harrowing feeling of a kid that's going nowhere while adulthood inexorably sets in. "Nothin' but a Driver" conveys real fun automotive-oriented employment with a shambling Bo Diddley-style shuffling rhythm and wry dissonances evoking the squeal of tires on pavement and the rush of Vivarin. There are wee country and folk undertones on the wry "Get on the Bus," evoking Little Feat and the Pogues in their primes, and "Slip Away" carries echoes of late-1960s/early 1970s sweet soul/R&B, but the Bottle Rockets are really a successor to the Replacements. *Lean Forward* is fine, earthy, timeless American rock 'n' roll. (Bloodshot)

— Mark Keresman

Mark Levine & the Latin Tinge

Off & On

Widely considered one of the best Brazilian composers of the 20th century, saxophonist Moacir Santos nonetheless saw few paper returns from the three albums he recorded for Blue Note in the 1970s. They were under-promoted and never reached a definite market; according to local pianist and former Santos collaborator Mark Levine, Blue Note ultimately lost the masters. It wasn't until shortly before his death in 2006 that Santos recorded two albums that garnered popular and critical recognition. Nonetheless, he remains indelibly etched in Brazil's music history. Santos' tunes are characterized by extravagant but immediately catchy rhythms and lean, singable melodies. They provide terrific material for a small combo with a tight percussion section. For Mark Levine and the Latin Tinge — a quintet featuring woodwinds expert Mary Fettig, percussionist Michael Spiro, drummer Paul van Wageningen, bassist John Wiitala, and Levine on piano — Santos' oeuvre is a perfect fit.

Levine gigged with Santos in the 1960s and played on the saxophonist's 1974 Blue Note record *Saudade*. Thus, the pianist shows a real understanding of Santos' music in *Off & On*, the new tribute he recorded with Latin Tinge over a two-day period in April. But for the popular opening tune "Nanã," most of the tunes are rather obscure, and apparently arranged the same way Santos originally played them. A mix of bossa novas and sambas, the songs usually require Spiro and Wageningen to play two completely autonomous rhythms in tandem, which makes for a busy percussion system. Levine anchors the band with careful, elegant comping, which sounds most imaginative on "Suk-Cha" — probably the best tune on the album. But the real sell here is Fettig, who can switch from bass clarinet to flute in the chorus of a single song, and manhandle both instruments. A lot of people would buy the album for that alone. (Left Coast Clave)

— Rachel Swan

Mark Levine & the Latin Tinge play Berkeley's Jazzschool (2087 Addison St.) on Sunday, Sept. 20, 4:30 p.m. $15-$18. Jazzschool.com

Rodrigo y Gabriela

11:11

As a pair of musicians whose specialty is playing classical guitars with inspiration coming from the likes of Metallica, Overkill, and Slayer, Rodrigo Sanchez and Gabriela Quintero very much have dichotomy at the heart of what they do. Like the duo's breakthrough self-titled 2006 album, *11:11* is an all instrumental affair overflowing with plenty of rapturous strumming and rhythmic foreplay. Steeped in the spirit of flamenco guitar, this collection of songs never trails off into New Age-y noodling. Instead, the aggressiveness of the twosome's heavy metal influences clearly comes across.

Rather than throw in covers of Led Zeppelin and Metallica as they did on their last outing, Rodrigo y Gabriela instead uses each self-penned track on the new album as a tribute to their influences. "Buster Voodoo" is a clear Jimi Hendrix homage that includes a quote from "Voodoo Chile." Testament's Alex Skolnick contributes a plugged-in solo that fits right into the Middle Eastern-flavored "Atman." Pink Floyd is given its due on the Gypsy-like title cut; acoustic guitar impresarios Strunz and Farah drop in to solo on the Paco de Lucia-inspired "Master Maqui," and Dominican jazz pianist Michel Camilo is honored on the spry and infectious "Santo Domingo." This is that rare release that appeals to those whose tastes run to Michael Hedges as well as heavy metal. (ATO)

— Dave Gil de Rubio

Rodrigo y Gabriela plays the Fox Theater (1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Wednesday, Sept. 23, 8 p.m., $35.50. TheFoxOakland.com

LOCAL LICKS

Butterfly Bones

Pretty Feelings EP

Put simply, this is the sound of sunshine: gleeful synths, featherlight melodies, no-fuss rhythms, and laidback tempos fun dancing when it's too hot to dance. More specifically, it's all about the attitude of those ubiquitous electronica — smooth, smiling, just happy to be there. In five songs and 22 minutes, Bay Area newcomers Butterfly Bones drop the soundtrack to your Indian summer. (self-released)

At Kimo's (1351 Polk St., San Francisco) on October 3, 9 p.m. $5

Yard Sale

God Bless Our Camper

They may be wrong about everybody wanting a Midwestern girl, as the opening track attests, but Yard Sale's take on low-key Bay Area folk, country, and string band fare is just right. The Oakland group features three female musicians who also sing and write their own songs, and the resultant diversity of vision and voice makes *God Bless* a success. (Llemeaum Records)

At Hotel Utah (500 4th St., San Francisco) on September 19, 9 p.m. $7

Various Artists

Music Lives Here Vol. 2: High School Edition

High-school bands are a rich resource in the East Bay; there's a lot more talent than we have any right to expect. Here, Walnut Creek's youth-oriented Red House Studios shares twelve of its favorites; highlights come from Dublin dance-rock group Dance My Heart, Walnut Creek pop-punk group the Story So Far, and San Ramon Christian metal group the Ninth Hour. (Red House Studios)

Sonya Cotton

Red River

Sonya Cotton's Red River will soothe a roiled sea. Although what she sings about (treachery, sickness, death) is hardly calming, and the record was fueled by carnage in her personal life — there is, in fact, a photo of Cotton kneeling outside a dead deer on the cover — something about the soft vocals and reverent instrumentation clears the mind like a childhood lullaby. (self-released)

Bay Area bands, show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Licks c/o the *East Bay Express*.

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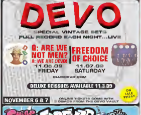
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THE ACADEMY IS...
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Blues, Folk & Country

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Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible]

FRIDAY 18

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

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PICKS

Clerestory

Many, if not all of the eight members of the male a cappella choral group **Clerestory** formerly sang with Chanticleer. At this concert, aptly entitled "Our Favorite Things," they sing their favorite selections. The music ranges from Gregorian to 20th-century, with an ample helping of folk songs. If you've never heard a seven-part wordless arrangement of "Danny Boy," here's your chance. At **St. Mark's Episcopal Church** (2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley) on Saturday, Sept. 19. 8 p.m., $10-$25. Clerestory.org — *Jason Victor Serinus*

Chick Corea, Stanley Clarke, & Lenny White Trio

Indisputably one of the best known musicians in his genre, jazz pianist **Chick Corea** has an amazing command of rhythm (he's also a drummer) and a penchant for blending different traditions — hence his association with 1970s-era electric fusion. Conversant in straight-ahead, Latin, and avant-garde styles, he's amassed a huge discography that includes tunes like the modern-jazz standard "Spain," which has truly syncopation and a hair-trigger B-section. In a career spanning several decades, Corea has backed Miles Davis, Herbie Mann, and free-jazz reeds player Anthony Braxton. He's won fifteen Grammys and recorded several albums as a leader. He's also ventured toward an unadulterated acoustic sound. Corea's new trio with bassist Stanley Clarke and guitarist Lenny White is the second iteration of his old band, Return to Forever, which has used a rotating cast of characters (Clarke was the only constant). They'll perform all-acoustic sets Tuesday, Sept. 15, through Friday, Sept. 18, at **Oakland Yoshi's** (510 Embarcadero). 8 & 10 p.m. $60-$65. Yoshis.com — *Rachel Swan*

Dead Confederate

Eighteen years after its release, Nirvana's grunge masterpiece *Nevermind* manages to still sound fresh. While the indie music scene these days noodles into all kinds of genres, few bands match Kurt Cobain's ability to make rock sound exciting again. That appears to be the primary goal of Athens, Georgia's **Dead Confederate**, who added a Southern spin to the Seattle band's sound on its 2008 debut, *Wrecking Ball*. Down to singer Hardy Morris' sullen demeanor, raspy yowl, stringy hair, and baby Levi's. There's no denying that the band can craft raw, immediate, and moving (albeit somewhat melodramatic) rock songs of its own — single "The Rat" being the prime example. They're still finding their own sound, but they're clearly onto something. Check them out when they stop by **Slim's** (333 11th St., San Francisco) on Saturday, Sept. 19, opening for the **Meat Puppets**. 9 p.m. $17-$20. Slims-SF.com — *Kathleen Wentz*

Grand Archives

If proof was ever needed that a person's environment casts its sway over the creative process, it can be found in Mat Brooke of **Grand Archives**. Two albums into leaving Band of Horses and forming his new band, Brooke has carved out a style of gauzy chamber-pop that's not unlike the oft overcast weather of his Pacific Northwest environs — opaque cloud cover periodically broken by sunshine — in this case rays of string arrangements and ethereal harmonies. With the new album *Keep in Mind Frankenstein*, Brooke and his crew serve up the expected stew of slow-core tinged by delicate touches of steel guitar and ghostly vocals that give the songs a far more tolerable twang than, say, the languid approach of peers Band of Horses. This auditory slice of a typical Seattle forecast arrives in on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at **Bottom of the Hill** (1233 17th St., San Francisco). 9 p.m., $12. BottomoftheHill.com — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Mount Eerie

Anacortes, Washington indie folker Phil Elverum, and band **Mount Eerie** just self-released an experimental black metal record called *Wind's Poem*. Evidently it was so good that the demanding aesthetes at

Dead Confederate

Aquarius Records picked it as a coveted "Record of the Week." Damn. Now Elverum takes his experiment on the road. First California stop: the best venue in the East Bay for it — **21 Grand** (416 25th St., Oakland), where he'll headline a bargain all-ages show sponsored by Club Sandwich, an under-the-radar promoting collective popping up locally. Opening: Portland's Tara Jane O'Neil, Vancouver's addictive No Kids (big-upped by David Byrne), and Anacortes' little-cat Karl Blau. Saturday, Sept. 19, 8 p.m., $6-10 donation. 21Grand.org — *David Downs*

These United States

These United States, a literary rock band from Washington, DC, is amazingly prolific, releasing three albums in a little less than two years. Frontman and songwriting guitarist Jesse Elliott ranges all over the pop spectrum, from folk to post-rock, with insightful compositions that explore the dark underbelly of America with a bracing combination of faith and cynicism. His band mates — Justin Craig, guitars, keys, percussion; Colin Kellogg, bass, guitars, keys, percussion; multi-instrumentalist Tom Heather and drummer Robby Cosenza — color the arrangements on their latest outing, *Everything Touches Everything*, with unusual combinations of instruments and textures to bring the songs to vibrant life. **These United States** will rock Cafe du Nord (2170 Market St., San Francisco) on Sunday, Sept. 20. 8 p.m., $10. CafeduNord.com — *j. poet*

C&C

[illegible] 8 & 10 pm, $22-$26

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Boca De Rio [illegible], 10 pm, $15
Rovement w/ [illegible], The Photographer & Sense [illegible], 10 pm, $8-$10
Cuban & [illegible] [illegible] Latin dance w/ [illegible], & [illegible], Pena Pachamama, 8:30 pm, $12.50

SATURDAY 19

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

11th Annual Delta Blues Festival featuring Memphis Gold, Delgado Brothers, Daniel Castro, Sonny Rhodes, [illegible] & Sampson, [illegible] Antioch, 10-7:30 pm, free
Appaloosa [illegible], 11 pm, $8
Better Rose w/ [illegible] Andrea [illegible], Grace North Church, 8 pm, $5-$10
California Honeydrops [illegible], 8:30 pm, free
Crosby, Stills & Nash [illegible] Amphitheatre, 8 pm, $45-$120
[illegible] Presents Birdlegs & the Right [illegible] Band [illegible] Barbeque, 9 pm, free
George Wheeler [illegible] place, Amador Theater, 8 pm, TBA
Sugar Mike acoustic Band blues, Cafe [illegible], 2-4 pm, free
The Very Bad Boys Brennan's, 8 pm, $8

Classical & Opera

London Players performing works by Brahms, Mozart, & Beethoven, Crowden Center for Music in the Community, 7:30 pm, $10

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Mount Eerie w/ Tara Jane O'Neil, No Kids, & Karl Blau, 21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space, 8:30 pm, $6-$10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bollywood Dollywood Trio Jazzschool, 8 pm

$13

Pitchy Hobbs [illegible], 8 pm, free

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$14 kids, matinee $5

Monterey Jazz Festival featuring Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Dave Brubeck Quartet, Conrad Herwig's Latin Side All-Star Band, [illegible] Singer, Joe Lovano, Monterey Jazz [illegible] All-Stars, Hank Jones, [illegible] & more. Monterey County Fairgrounds, 11:30 am, $35-$320, youth $15-$320

[illegible] Zydeco plus Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 9 pm, $12, students $10

Pocket Trio [illegible], 8 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible] w/ [illegible] singers, The Alley, 8 pm, free

[illegible] Anna's Jazz Island, 8 pm, $14

[illegible] Project w/ [illegible] Quartet, [illegible] Pub, 9:30 pm, $5

Rock & Pop

[illegible] featuring [illegible], [illegible], 6 Hammerings, [illegible] Community Center, 8 pm, $6

The Big Show featuring the Al [illegible], Jack's Mannequin, [illegible], the Gaslight Anthem, the [illegible], Tonic Dawn, the Lonesomes, & more, San Jose Municipal [illegible] Center, 5 pm, $29.50

[illegible] Prince w/ ACADA Collective, [illegible], the Reality Thief, Starry Plough, 9:30 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Party, Jingle Punx, Stork Club, 9 pm, $5

The [illegible] Show w/ the [illegible], Cosca [illegible], Uptown, 9 pm, $10

An Evening w/ [illegible] Rickshaw, 9:30 pm, free

Furthur featuring Phil Lesh, Bob Weir, Jeff Chimenti, John Kadlecik, Jay Lane, & Joe Russo, Fox Theater, 7:30 pm, sold out

[illegible]'s Birthday featuring Savage [illegible], Saint [illegible], [illegible], plus [illegible] wrestling matches, [illegible], 9 pm, $10-$33

[illegible] Rickshaw, 10 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Entertainment Kimball's Carnival, 8 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Chilean Independence Day, La Peña Cultural Center, 8:30 pm, $12

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Lynch w/ the [illegible], Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $7

[illegible] and [illegible] [illegible], 8 & 10 pm, $20

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] Festival featuring [illegible], William [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], Swedish American Hall, 3 pm, $10

[illegible] Festival featuring [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible], Café du Nord, 9 pm, $13

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] musical revue and [illegible] of pop-culture figures in [illegible] around the world in [illegible] of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 7 & 10 pm, $25-$77

[illegible] [illegible] Center for the Arts Forum, 1-3 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 10 pm, $12

Louise Cope The Fillmore, 9 pm, $85

Dirty Three w/ [illegible], [illegible] Music Hall, 9 pm, $18-$68

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Regency Ballroom, 8 pm, $35.50-$38

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Lounge, 8:30 pm, $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Three Parkside, 3-8 pm, free

[illegible] w/ Music Go Music, Yea [illegible], & DJ [illegible], The Independent, 9 pm, $15-$17

[illegible] Audiofab, [illegible] Red Devil Lounge, 9 pm, $13

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $17-$19

No Alternative w/ [illegible], [illegible], 10 pm, $8

The [illegible] performing [illegible], [illegible] Celebration of [illegible], [illegible], 10 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $10-$50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Cada, 10 pm, $10

[illegible] [illegible] San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $22-$26

[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

Saturday Night Soul Party w/ [illegible], Paul Paul, & [illegible], [illegible], 10 pm, $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] [illegible] 365 Club, 4 pm, $25

[illegible] Bhangra Dance Party w/ [illegible] Dance Troupe & DJ [illegible], plus [illegible] lesson w/ [illegible] at 8:30 p.m., Rickshaw Stop, 9 pm, $10-$15

SUNDAY 20

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Campbell & Friends Rickshaw Saloon, 9 pm, free

[illegible] and the [illegible] Band Italian opera & song, Caffè [illegible], 2-5 pm, free

Classical & Opera

[illegible] performing [illegible] by J.S. and C.P.E. Bach on harpsichord, [illegible], 3 pm, $20, seniors/students $15

[illegible] McCarty organ recital, St. John's Presbyterian Church, 4 pm, $20, students $10

Gospel & Vocal

[illegible] of Trinity College Cambridge St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 7 pm, $25-$50, seniors/students $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] and the [illegible] Band w/ the [illegible] Band, Mountain Winery, 7:30 pm, $45-$170.50

[illegible] Group Anna's Jazz Island, 7 & 8:30 pm, $12

[illegible] open mic jazz, [illegible] Café, 12-2 pm, free

[illegible] Jazz [illegible] [illegible] & contemporary jazz, Coffee Mill, 3-6 pm, free

Lila Wright Yoshi's, 2 & 7 pm, $18-$24 kids, matinee $5

[illegible] Latin Tinge [illegible] [illegible], 4-10 pm, $15-$18

Monterey Jazz Festival featuring Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Dave Brubeck Quartet, Conrad Herwig's Latin Side All-Star Band, [illegible], Joe Lovano, Monterey Jazz Festival All-Stars, Hank Jones, [illegible] & more, Monterey County Fairgrounds, 11 am, $35-$320, youth $15-$320

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible], 924 Gilman, 5 pm, $8

[illegible] Band Sunny Sundays, [illegible], [illegible], 3-6:30 pm, $8, kids $4

Furthur featuring Phil Lesh, Bob Weir, Jeff Chimenti, John Kadlecik, Jay Lane, & Joe Russo, Fox Theater, 7:30 pm, sold out

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] [illegible] music and dance event, La Peña Cultural Center, 3:30-8 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] on Telegraph, 8:30 pm, $8, under 21 $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Parkside, 6 pm, $8

[illegible] Band w/ special guest [illegible], Yoshi's San Francisco, 7 pm, $14-$15

Classical & Opera

[illegible] [illegible] Sunday champagne brunch, Top of the Mark, 11 am-2 pm, $59 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] Festival featuring [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible], Swedish American Hall, 8:30 pm, $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] musical revue and [illegible] of pop-culture figures in which [illegible] around the world in [illegible] of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 2 & 5 pm, $25-$77

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Fillmore, 8 pm, $20

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, $13-$15

[illegible] w/ the [illegible], The Independent, 8 pm, $12

[illegible] w/ [illegible], the Secret Samurai, & the [illegible], [illegible], 2 pm, $10

[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

[illegible] Café du Nord, 8 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible], the [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] [illegible] 365 Club, 4 pm, $25

[illegible] Ensemble music and dance from the Middle East, [illegible], 5:30 pm, $10

[illegible] Tango [illegible] Party Cada, 8 pm, $15

MONDAY 21

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Ensemble traditional [illegible] music, Caffè [illegible], 7-9 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 pm, $20

"[illegible]" live burlesque w/ [illegible] Revue, Uptown, 8 pm, $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] The Independent, 8 pm, $20

Rock & Pop

[illegible] of [illegible] [illegible], Café du Nord, 7:30 pm, $12-$20

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], The Fillmore, 8 pm, $29.50

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], The Regency Ballroom, 7:30 pm, $23.50-$26

[illegible] w/ the [illegible], [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], [illegible]

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xx

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Russell's new album, *Blood and Candle Smoke*, evokes the spirit of the American experience in tightly scrutinized panoramic vignettes. Recorded with members Calexico.

MARK KNOPFLER 14.98 CD
Get Lucky

The sixth solo studio album from the legendary musician and Dire Straits member explores a lifetime of musical roots exemplified by the title track.

SIMIAN MOBILE DISCO 11.98 CD
Temporary Pleasure

The UK's DJ/producer and remix team's new album unleashes some staggering pop anthems, featuring vocal contributions from the likes of Jamie Lidell, Yo! Majesty, the Gossip's Beth Ditto, Super Furry Animals' Gruff Rhys and Hot Chip's Alexis Taylor. *Limited edition 2 CD set available for $18.98. LP available for $16.98*

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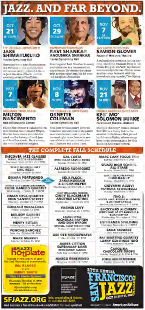

JAZZ. AND FAR BEYOND.

OCT 21 W 7:30PM

THE UKULELE—REIMAGINED

JAKE SHIMABUKURO

Davies Symphony Hall

Hawaiian-born Jake Shimabukuro is a virtuoso of the ukulele, with influences ranging from J.S. Bach to Jimi Hendrix. Check out this amazing artist on YouTube!

OCT 29 TH 7:30PM

INSPIRATION FROM INDIA

RAVI SHANKAR
ANOUSHKA SHANKAR

Davies Symphony Hall

Sitar legend Ravi Shankar's every performance is a transcendent experience. He shares the stage with another sitar star, his 28-year-old daughter, Anoushka.

NOV 7 SA 7 & 9:30PM

JAZZ RHYTHM TO HIS TOES

SAVION GLOVER

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

A cultural phenomenon for his starring role in the musical *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*, tap dancer extraordinaire Savion Glover takes another step forward with his incendiary jazz quartet, The Otherz.

NOV 7 SA 8PM

BRILLIANCE FROM BRAZIL

MILTON NASCIMENTO

Nob Hill Masonic Center

Milton Nascimento's collaborations with Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter have made an indelible mark on the history of both jazz and Brazilian music. He is among the world's greatest singers.

NOV 8 SU 8PM

THE ESSENCE OF EXPRESSION

ORNETTE COLEMAN

Davies Symphony Hall

Free jazz revolutionary Ornette Coleman has lost none of his power as a transformational figure. An increasingly rare chance to see one of the most iconoclastic jazz saxophonists and a true giant.

NOV 21 SA 8PM

DOUBLE BARRELED BLUES BASH

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Saturday, October 10, 8PM

OMARA PORTUONDO
Tuesday, October 20, 8PM

BENNY GOODMAN CENTENNIAL
EDDIE DANIELS QUARTET
Wednesday, October 21, 7:30PM

OMAR SOSA QUARTET
JOHN SANTOS SEXTET
Thursday, October 22, 7:30PM

GONZALO RUBALCABA
Friday, October 23, 8PM

MELODY GARDOT
Friday, October 23, 8PM

HENRY BUTLER
Saturday, October 24, 8PM

PONCHO SANCHEZ
Saturday, October 24, 8PM

MARK MURPHY
Sunday, October 25, 3PM

GAL COSTA
WITH OSCAR CASTRO NEVES
Sunday, October 25, 7PM

ALFREDO RODRÍGUEZ
Sunday, October 25, 7PM

BÉLA FLECK
ZAKIR HUSSAIN
& EDGAR MEYER
Wednesday, October 28, 7:30PM

TONY WILLIAMS TRIBUTE
CINDY BLACKMAN'S ANOTHER LIFETIME
Wednesday, October 28, 8PM

YASMIN LEVY
Thursday, October 29, 7:30PM

SACRED SPACE
NICHOLAS PAYTON AND DON BYRON
SPECIAL GUEST IVA BITTOVÁ
Friday, October 30, 8PM

DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER
Friday, October 30, 8PM

JAMES COTTON SUPERHARP BAND
WITH HUBERT SUMLIN
Saturday, October 31, 8PM

MARCO BENEVENTO
Saturday, October 31, 8PM

MARC CARY FOCUS TRIO
Sunday, November 1, 2PM

SFJAZZ HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STARS
Sunday, November 1, 3PM

SFJAZZ BEACON AWARD
JOHN HANDY
Sunday, November 1, 7PM

GIOVANNI ALLEVI
PATRIZIA SCASCITELLI
Sunday, November 1, 8PM

TRIO 3:
OLIVER LAKE, REGGIE WORKMAN & ANDREW CYRILLE
Wednesday, November 4, 7:30PM

BACKYARD ALCHEMY:
JESÚS DIAZ, SCOTT AMENDOLA & JAZ SAWYER
Wednesday, November 4, 8PM

ESPERANZA SPALDING
Thursday, November 5, 7:30PM

SARA TAVARES
Friday, November 6, 8PM

PAT MARTINO QUARTET
LARRY GOLDINGS TRIO
Friday, November 6, 8PM

CAROLINA CHOCOLATE DROPS
Sunday, November 8, 3PM & 7PM

JOHN ABERCROMBIE
Sunday, November 8, 2PM

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TUESDAY 22

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Western Dance Night w/ Bonnie [illegible]. Vinne's Bar & Grill. 7:30-11 pm. free

Gator Beat plus Cajun Zydeco dance lesson at 8 pm. Ashkenaz. 8:30 pm. $10

Trio Rusty Toby Hillbilly Jazzbos w/ guest vocalist Ruby "Baby" Bennett. Jollie's Caffe & Tea Garden. 7 pm. free

Classical & Opera

Chanticleer performing In Time Of... Songs of Love & Loss, War & Peace. Hellmann Theatre. 8 pm. $23-$44

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Angela Mastroeriando piano music. Campo di Bocce. 6-8 pm. free

Red Dawn Steve Jazz w/ guest vocalist singers. The Alley. 9 pm. free

Soulive w/ the Shady Horns, Nigel Hall & special guest Fred Wesley. Yoshi's. 8 & 10 pm. $18-$24

Time Jazz Quartet Caffe Rosso. 7-8 pm. free

Wynton Marsalis & Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Preceded by Ray Nolan Swing [illegible] dance/Music lecture [illegible]. Zellerbach Hall. 8 pm. $32-$48, $60

Rock & Pop

The Australian Pink Floyd Show Fox Theater. 8 pm. $37.50-$39.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Toshiko Akiyoshi/Lew Tabackin Quartet Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 & 10 pm. $16-$30

Rock & Pop

Erin McCarley w/ Landon Pigg. The Independent. 9 pm. $13-$15

Five Finger Death Punch w/ Shadows Fall, OTEP & 2Cents. The Regency Ballroom. 7:30 pm. $18-$22

The Most Serene Republic w/ Grand Archives, the Lonely Forest. Bottom of the Hill. 8 pm. $12

Pet Shop Boys The Warfield. 8 pm. $65-$88.50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Late-Night Live Tuesdays. [illegible] War Yoshi's San Francisco. 9:30 pm-1:30 am. $3

WEDNESDAY 23

EAST BAY

Classical & Opera

Shakespeare Wonders & Song featuring Susan Gundunas, soprano, Daniel Lockert, piano, & Steve Rowan, celtic harp. Hertz Hall. noon. free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

ENERJI w/ [illegible]. [illegible] Gallery/Performance Space. 8:30 pm. $6-$10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bob Gara & the Sword Stave Rooster's Roadhouse. 9-11 pm. free

Kelly Park Trio & Friends Anna's Jazz Island. 8 pm. $10

Kerl Ahrent Trio original jazz. Cato's Ale House. 6-9 pm. free

Latin Jazz Dance La Pena de Cafe. 7:30 pm. $8

Live Jazz Australian [illegible] & Grill. 7:30 pm. free

Bitcovert Gold Jazz Band Santa Park. 7-9 pm. free

Pickett Loop Jupiter. 8 pm. free

Jazz Session dinner jazz w/ guest vocalist singers. The Alley. 9 pm. free

Soulive w/ the Shady Horns, Nigel Hall & special guest Fred Wesley. Yoshi's. 8 & 10 pm. $18-$24

Will Bernard Mbjah music. Campo di Bocce. 6-8 pm. free

Rock & Pop

Dig This! bold music showcase presented by Pirate Cat Store. This week: the Owens Party, the Soft Stone Sirens, & Shock Pop. Uptown. 9 pm. $8

The Inflatables Mason's Sports Bar & Grill. 9 pm. free

Punk Rock Night featuring old-school & new-school punk mix. Spontanic Lounge. 10 pm. free

Rodrigo y Gabriela w/ Brown DeLuca. Fox Theater. 8 pm. $35.50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Temptations & the Four Tops [illegible] Wines. 7:30 pm. $45-$75

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

I Show Ocean Ashkenaz. 8:30 pm. $18-$20

Orquesta Bembe plus dance lessons & 8:30 [illegible]. Shattuck Down Low. 9 pm. $10. Women $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Quartet musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White looses around the world in search of Prince Charming. Club Fugazi. 9 pm. $25-$77

Dennis w/ the Mbjah selected Session. Amnesia. 9 pm. free

India & Africa: A Birthday tribute to John Coltrane featuring Anthony Brown's Asian American Orchestra plus special guests. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 & 10 pm. $20

Baja Royal w/ guitarist Bobby Cobbs II. Wineland Restaurant. Bill Lounge. 7:15-10:30 pm. free

Rock & Pop

Mon Beat School of Dance Steve Show-dance bands TBA. Cafe du Nord. 7:30 pm. $12-$20

Dance Gavin Degraw w/ Evenness, Of Mice & Men, & [illegible]. Slim's. 8 pm. $14

David Western w/ Christopher Lockett, Robert Paul [illegible]. Gaeshor Cavern. 9 pm. $10

Whisper Four w/ Riverboat Gamblers, [illegible] & Young Offenders. Bottom of the Hill. 9 pm. $12

The Dt/Hollywood, Alan Dover co-headlining. Great American Music Hall. 9 pm. $16

Bob Wakeman w/ Doug Paisley, Lemar Lights. Rickshaw Stop. 8 pm. $10

Pet Shop Boys The Warfield. 8 pm. $65-$88.50

Pitbull The Regency Ballroom. 8 pm. $27.50-$32.50

Portugal. The Man w/ Drug Rug, [illegible]. The [illegible]. 9 pm. $15

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Hip Hop Wednesdays live hip-hop w/ hip-hop bands. [illegible]. 9 pm. $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

3 de la Bossa Rooftop Supper Club. 9 pm. $10-$15

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Fri, Sat, September 18, 19
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TALIB KWELI, RES, GRAPH NOBEL, with Live Band

Mon, September 20
This weekend! TONY LINDSAY BAND
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Mon, September 21
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Tues, September 22
next week! TOSHIKO AKIYOSHI – LEW TABACKIN QUARTET

Wed, September 23
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Thurs, Fri, September 24, 25
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The Jury is Out CD Western

Tues, Wed, September 22, 23
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Wallpaper. [illegible] New York [illegible] for the release of the new album, [illegible]

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 17

EAST BAY

College Night w/ DJ and VJ Joe D spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall & top 40, White Horse Inn, 8 pm, $3, [illegible] free w/ valid ID

Descendants United DJs Chief Boima & Adid Dee spin afrobeat, [illegible], Dominican, cumbia, & dancehall, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $10

Dirt/Inside w/ DJ Dirt and [illegible] spinning funk, hip-hop, & electronic music, Jupiter, 9 pm, free

DJ Abel spinning eclectic [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

Happy Hour w/ DJ Donovan spinning reggae, African, salsa, classics, Brazilian, lounge & more, & funk, Kitty's, 7 pm, free

Tasty Beats night w/ DJ Ms. Jezebel [illegible] hip-hop & R&B, Beach & Bar, 9 pm, $12

Thursday Throwdown w/ DJ Ron the Vinyl Anthropologist and guests spinning hip-hop classics, 80s, [illegible], house, [illegible] beat, & [illegible], Brazilian Room/Lux, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Afrolicious w/ DJs Sake, Pleasuremaker, Senor Oz & guests spinning Afro-Latin funk, Elbo Room, 10 pm, $6

Alex Rosen w/ One Man Party, Add Neighbors, Montalvo, 9 pm, $12-$15

[illegible] by Haze [illegible] during [illegible], The Knockout, 7:30-10 pm, free

Represent w/ Ron the Vinyl Anthropologist and guest DJs [illegible] hip-hop classics, funk, soul, dancehall, reggae, house & breaks, from Ultra Lounge, 10 pm, $5

FRIDAY 18

EAST BAY

[illegible] in the Friday DJ Persefoni plays [illegible] from the 80s, Kitty's, 8 pm, free

Bro Job w/ DJs Eddy Bravo and his friends spinning fast [illegible] and slow jams, [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free

Classics on 18 Dubs w/ DJs Maple Man, Justin Tyme, Sweet Dubs & Olen spinning [illegible], Latin, & reggae, [illegible] Metro Operahouse, 9 pm, $10

DJ B Jarvasha Main Street Junction, 8 pm, free

Flashback Fridays DJs Spair & Platoon (the Oakland Soldiers) spin old-school hip-hop and funk, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $10

Fly w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, old-school, reggaeton, & more, The Vibe Lounge, 10 pm, $5, after 11 pm $10

Fly and Flashy w/ Cut Pajuan spinning dance music & top 40 hits, Club Anton, 9 pm-2 am, $5, ladies free before 11 pm

Happy Night Reggae Party w/ DJ Sweet-Singer, Shaka Zulu Sound, & guests spinning reggae, R&B, & calypso, [illegible] Fingers, 8 pm, free

Friday Night Salsa w/ guest DJs spinning salsa, La Estrellita Cafe, 10 pm, $5

Happy Hour w/ DJ [illegible] spinning punk, rock, indie, & [illegible], Mosswood Lounge, 6-10 pm, free

Hip-Hop House Music w/ Dubas DJ, Club 1220, 9 pm, $6

La Onda [illegible] dancehall, soul, R&B, [illegible] and club classics, [illegible] City, 10 pm, $5

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge [illegible] spins salsa, merengue, bachata, [illegible] hip-hop, & house, [illegible] & Bar, 9 pm-2 pm, $12

Mandala weekly in-house DJ series, Amoeba Music (Berkeley), 7:30 pm, free

[illegible] Pollos w/ DJ Add 1, Kingman's Ivy Room, 9 pm, free

[illegible] Tropical Lounge DJ Aldo [illegible] spinning Cuban music & Latin jazz, La Peña de Cafe, 10:30 pm, free

Spinning w/DJ Ryan spinning the hottest music in the Bay Area, White Horse Inn, 9 pm, $5

Old-School hip-hop and funk, Radio, 9 pm, free

Oldies Night with DJ Gonzalo spinning reggae, soca, salsa, & R&B, Island Paradise Club, 10 pm, ladies free before 11:30 p.m.

Quixotic DJ Joe Quixx spins funk, Latin, & dub, Club Lounge, 10 pm, free

"Reggae Fridays" DJs [illegible], Roots Kingdom & Short Cut spin dancehall, reggae, & R&B, Caribbean City, 9:30 pm-1:30 am, $8 to $10

Retro-Mission [illegible] 80s pop night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

Sultry Fridays DJ Lash D Fat Rob spin R&B & soul, Kimball's Carnival, 9 pm, $8

Truffy w/ DJ Jarett Pryors spinning northern soul, oldies, 80s, [illegible] punk, new wave, & rock 'n' roll, Ruby Room, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Acoustic Swanky Levende Lounge, 7 pm, free

Blue Lp indie-pop-shoe-noir nightclub, [illegible], 10 pm, $10 for 21+, $15 for 18-21

[illegible] DJs [illegible] Roots w/ Lane & [illegible], 10 pm, $5, free before 10:30 pm

Dirt DJs Vinnie, Kap10 Harris, & [illegible] King spin electro, booty beats, crunk, [illegible], hip-hop, & party classics, Madrone Lounge, 9 pm, $5 after 10 p.m.

DJ Danny Rampsyn spinning rock, hip-hop, new wave, R&B, '70s, '80s, & pop, Swig, free & pm, free

DJ Blue Thump and Guests Make-Out Room, 10 pm, $5

Eruption Fridays w/ rotating DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, rock, & more, Element Lounge, 9 pm, $8

Flashback Friday DJs Scotty Fox, [illegible], MCO, & [illegible] 80s and hip-hop, The Cellar, 10 pm, free

Fridays at the Fault Shine w/ DJs Carmen & [illegible] spinning soul, funk, & world, [illegible], 6-9 pm, free

[illegible] rotating DJs, [illegible], 11 pm, $10, free before midnight

Kaleidoscope DJ Carlos spins soul, [illegible], R&B, & garage, House of Reggae, 9 pm, free

Madness weekly in-house DJ series, Amoeba Music (SF), 6-9 pm, free

Mighty Breaks Mighty, 10 pm, $5

Shark Attack w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spinning indie, electro, minimal, and prog, Cat Club, 9:30 pm, free before 10 p.m., $5

Shine rotating live performers host DJ [illegible] spinning rock, soul, & funk, [illegible], The Knockout, 10 pm, free

Sitting dance party [illegible] by [illegible] Bay, w/ rotating DJs [illegible], 10 pm, $5

Rooba w/ DJs [illegible], Shapo, [illegible], & [illegible], Underground SF, 9 pm, $5

VSL Fridays w/ rotating DJs from the Bay Area and abroad, [illegible] spinning hip-hop, Vessel, 9 pm, $10

SATURDAY 19

EAST BAY

Club Mosswell's DJs Joey Rose & Soul Patient spin R&B, beat, funk, reggae, & hip-hop, [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, $10

Country Saturdays followed by hip-hop & house at midnight, Club 1220, 8:30 pm-midnight, $5

"Club Qu" w/ DJ Berg, Happy Pete, & guests spinning reggae, dancehall, soca, & hip-hop remixes, Shattuck Down Low, 11 pm, $5

Magic Mike Crawl DJ Brown & guests host glam-rocking extravaganza, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

El Superritmo! w/ DJs El Kool Kyle & Night Man spinning cumbia, reggaeton, [illegible], and world [illegible], Make-Out Room, 10 pm, $5

Soul Slam IV: Pelican vs. Michael Wanted w/ DJ Spinna, Prof. Rahsaan, & King Most, Mezzanine, 9 pm, $20

SUNDAY 20

SAN FRANCISCO

Dub Mission w/ DJ Sep, [illegible] & guests spinning dub, roots, & dancehall classics, Elbo Room, 9 pm, $6

TUESDAY 22

EAST BAY

DJ Goodfellows Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

WEDNESDAY 23

EAST BAY

80s Night with Mr. 1984 Mr. 1984 spins songs from the '80s, plus drink specials by Cory, Easy Lounge, 8 pm, free

Afternoon Delight w/ DJ Katy spinning Brazilian funk, & more, Kitty's, 8 pm, free

Under Pop Rocks w/ [illegible], Kirin Pollar and Jaycone spinning [illegible] and [illegible], Oldies on Telegraph, 8 pm, $5

Roadkillers DJ Brown spins soulful [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

Bump Day w/ DJs Jet B [illegible] classics, at [illegible] Mosswood Lounge, 10 pm-2 am, free

Ivy Wednesdays DJ Bling & guests spin reggae, & dancehall, Kingman's Ivy Room, 11 pm, free

Bushel Punk, indie, new wave, & classic [illegible] w/ DJ Isaac [illegible], Happy Fluffy Room, 11 pm-2 am, free

[illegible] DJ classics & rotating guests spin salsa, samba, merengue, reggaeton, & hip-hop, plus salsa floor lessons at 8 p.m., Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

80S Nights w/ Chris [illegible] spins North African & Middle Eastern grooves, [illegible], 9 pm, $5

Bondage-a-Go-Go go-go dancers, plus DJs spinning dirty dance, Cat Club, 9:30 pm, $3 before 9:30 pm, $7

Brand New Wednesdays w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning hip-hop, top 40, reggae, R&B & [illegible], 11 pm, free

Club [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible] spinning goth, [illegible], 10 pm, $3

DJ [illegible] spinning chilled-out beats, new-school soul, underground hip-hop & [illegible], Swig Bar, 9 pm, free

DJ [illegible] Levende Lounge, 7 pm, free

DJ World [illegible] spinning [illegible] & reggae, Little Baobab, 9 pm, $3

Lounge DJs spin hip-hop, R&B, reggae, & [illegible] classics, The Cellar, 10 pm, free

[illegible] Sushi Bowl Happy Hour The Knockout, 6-9 pm, free

Mission Wednesday DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spin classics, hip-hop, reggae, funk, & soul, Skylark, 10 pm, $6

Kanatika w/ rotating guest DJs [illegible], 9 pm, free before 10 pm, $5

Toby's Oldies DJ Toby Cam spins classic Motown & more, Shaps Tavern, 6-11:30 pm, free

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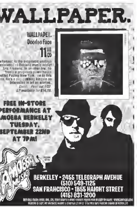
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SAVAGE LOVE

TURNING LEMONS INTO LEMONADE

How our sexual insecurities can become our biggest turn-ons.

By Dan Savage

My boyfriend and I have been living together for a year. He knows I am an insecure person when it comes to my body. I'm not overweight. I've been told my whole life how good-looking I am, and my boyfriend tells me he loves my body. We have an active and interesting sex life. Here is my problem: I get upset when he looks at porn. I never had a problem with porn until my previous boyfriend (he preferred porn to sex). I've been uncomfortable about porn ever since. I wish I could get over this. My boyfriend knows I would love to share pornography together, but he just does it in private.

I suppose I got upset initially because my boyfriend told me on several occasions that he didn't need to look at porn while he was in a relationship, and I believed him. I later saw on our computer that this wasn't true, and he kept denying it until we had an argument. It bothers me that he felt like he had to lie about it.

Any help or ideas would be greatly appreciated to help me get over this.

Feeling Fucking Frustrated

P.S. When I'm alone and I look at the porn my boyfriend watches on the computer, it does turn me on a little and I masturbate thinking about him getting off to it. But I feel bad after I'm done. WTF?

The usual porn concordat — the only porn compromise that works — goes like this: He pretends not to look at porn, out of consideration for your feelings, and you pretend to believe him, out of consideration for his. And I would stick that advice on a pike and parade it under your window if it weren't for that amazing little postscript: You're turned on when you check out the porn your boyfriend's been watching, and — this is a very important detail — you masturbate not so much to the porn itself but to the idea that this porn is getting your boyfriend off when you're not around.

WTF? This the fuck: Your erotic imagination has been hard at work, FFF, breaking down your sexual fears and insecurities — about your looks, about porn, about your douchebag ex-boyfriend — and reconstructing them as a fetish. Congratulations, FFF, you've got a kink. It's not an uncommon response: Sometimes our subconscious mind takes the lemons of our sexual insecurities and turns them into delicious beverage. So what do you do now? You should begin to explore and cultivate — slowly, carefully, thoughtfully — your subconscious mind's efforts to eroticize your boyfriend's porn habits and your own insecurities. Here's how:

He may never want to look at porn with you — he's obviously self-conscious about it, which is why he lied (maybe he had a bad experience with an ex who freaked out about his porn-viewing habits that left him feeling insecure?) — but you've already proven that you two don't have to watch porn together for both of you to get something out of it. He should continue to get off watching porn alone but then intentionally leave the clips for you, perhaps in a dedicated folder. You should look at those clips — alone — and get off watching the porn he watched and tormenting yourself — carefully — with mental images of him getting off to this stuff. Delete the clips you've looked at so that he knows you're getting off too and knows to refill your clips folder.

You can turn this problem that you're having with your boyfriend — he's looking at porn, you're masturbating about it — into a game you're playing with your boyfriend. That will give your insecurities an erotic payoff — and that payoff could alleviate or eliminate those bad and abandoned feelings.

I have been in a stable poly relationship for twenty years. A good friend of mine knows this but rejects poly as a lifestyle choice for himself. He is in a "monogamous" relationship now. But he is willing to cheat on his girlfriend — with me if I wanted, but I'm not keen. My question is this: Why would someone pick cheating when they know about open or poly relationships? I don't understand. I don't see the logic in it.

Honest Open Poly Eros

Isn't it obvious? Your friend wants to have sex with other people, HOPE, but he doesn't want his girlfriend having sex with other people. What I don't understand is why an honest poly can be friendly with a dishonest cheater. That's like an out gay person being friends with a tormented closet case — where's the logic in that?

I've been in a relationship with my boyfriend for the last five years, and we moved in together this past year. Our sex life is not too active and it's an issue we've discussed numerous times. This has caused my self-esteem to plummet. And this aspect of our problem has made me very resentful. We're very into D/S play and discovered our kinky interests early on. In fact, any time I bend him over and spank him or add a bit of bondage, our sex life picks right up again. I resent the fact that this is the only way I can get him interested. Is it possible that he's only interested in kinky sex? Does it mean that good old-fashioned vanilla is out of the question?

I enjoy kink just as much as he does and sometimes more, but every once in a while I just want to be fucked. He's actually had difficulty staying hard before if we're "just" having missionary.

He Only Likes It Kinky

You have leverage here, HOLIK: use it.

The next time you wanna get fucked good and vanilla, HOLIK, whisper in the boyfriend's ear that you are so gonna tie him up and beat his ass tomorrow night. Then tell him if he wants that — and tell him that you know he wants it because he's a dirty little pervert — he's going to have to fuck you right now, and fuck you hard, and fuck you the way you wanna be fucked. Then once he's fucking you, HOLIK, whisper something vaguely threatening in his ear once in a while — something about the beating he's earning with his good vanilla behavior — and he won't have any trouble staying hard. ●

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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: [illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court [illegible] Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name: [illegible] to Proposed Name: [illegible] THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31, U.S. Post Office Bldg, 201 13th Street, Oakland
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, [illegible]
Dated: July 21, 2009
Signed: Yolanda N. Northridge
Judge of the Superior Court
8/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23/2009

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF Name
CASE NUMBER: [illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court [illegible] Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland CA 94612-4280
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: [illegible] to Proposed Name: [illegible] THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING
[illegible], 2009 at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, [illegible]
Dated: May 19, 2009
Signed: Yolanda N. Northridge
Judge of the Superior Court
9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23/2009

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Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 428180
The following individual is doing business as [illegible] Street Address: [illegible], Berkeley, CA 94710. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 2600 10th St, Ste. 333, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible] 2009
[illegible]
8/26, 9/2, 9/9, 9/16/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Evergreen [illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] St #322, Oakland, CA 94601 Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible] 2009
Evergreen [illegible]
8/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA 94618 Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Oakland CA 94618. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/14/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 8/18/2009
[illegible]
[illegible] 9/30, 10/7/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 428183
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Emeryville CA 94608 Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible] 2009
[illegible]
9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23/2009

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF Name
CASE NUMBER: [illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court [illegible] Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: [illegible] to Proposed Name: [illegible] THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING
October 30, 2009 at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31, U.S. Post Office Bldg, 201 13th Street
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, [illegible]
Dated: July 17, 2009
Signed: Yolanda N. Northridge
Judge of the Superior Court
9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 429772
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: 231 Park View Ave, Piedmont, CA [illegible] Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 231 Park View Ave., Piedmont, CA 94610. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 9/2/2009
[illegible]
9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 428944
The following Registrant is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: 301 El Ashby Ave Berkeley CA 94705 Mailing Address: Same as Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Berkeley, CA 94703 This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/12/09. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 8/14/2009
[illegible]
9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23/2009

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: [illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court [illegible] Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland CA 94612-4280
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: [illegible] to Proposed Name: [illegible] THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING
[illegible], 2009 at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Oakland, County, California.
Dated: August 14, 2009
Signed: [illegible]
Judge of the Superior Court
8/26, 9/2, 9/9, 9/16/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible] Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Oakland CA 94612. This business is conducted by an individual. The Registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/1/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 8/[illegible]/2009
[illegible]
9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Oakland CA [illegible] Mailing Address: [illegible] is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Oakland CA 94610. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 8/31/2009
[illegible]
9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7/2009

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 428187
The following individual is doing business as **The Oakland Tarot**, Street Address: 308 48th Street, Oakland, CA 94609 Mailing Address: Same as Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 308 48th Street, Oakland CA 94609. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/1/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 8/18/2009
The Oakland Tarot
9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7/2009

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RA 2009

Nov 6-8 Oakland

RA 2009 is an international conference [illegible] Why no vaccine? Why are people less [illegible] How did we let HIV vaccine [illegible] Critiques from top scientists and experts and show how HIV and AIDS statistics are manipulated, how [illegible] [illegible] a death sentence [illegible] without AIDS drugs. [illegible] A registration fee is required. **For information, schedule, list of speakers and link to register please go to: http://ra2009.org.**

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Oakland [illegible] Services [illegible] This Sunday, September 20th, 1-5 p.m., [illegible] To view [illegible] visit us at www.[illegible] The shelter is located at 1101 29th Avenue in Oakland [illegible]

Irene
Age: [illegible] Sex: Female
Breed: Tibetan [illegible]
Weight: [illegible] lbs.
Food: Yes; Shots: Yes
Description: [illegible]
East Bay SPCA
8323 Baldwin St., Oakland
510-569-0702

Muppet
Age: [illegible] Sex: Female
Breed: Domestic [illegible]
Weight: [illegible] lbs.
Food: Yes; Shots: Yes
Description: Muppet is a [illegible]
East Bay SPCA
8323 Baldwin St., Oakland
510-569-0702

Isabel
Age: [illegible] Sex: Female
Breed: Domestic [illegible]
Weight: [illegible] lbs.
Food: Yes; Shots: Yes
Description: [illegible]
East Bay SPCA
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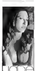

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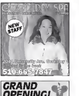
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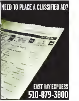
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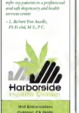
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